

Immigration is down by a quarter, Prime Minister says

Thatcher's promise of a clear end to immigration has started a political storm that is at the centre of the election campaign (our Political Editor)

In the House of Commons yesterday Mr Thatcher insisted that immigration last year was less than in 1976.

Form over remarks by Mrs Thatcher

Emory Editor
Thatcher's promise of a clear end to immigration has started a political storm that is at the centre of the election campaign. Yesterday, a quarter less than in 1976.

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Industry still firmly in recession, survey says

By Malcolm Brown
Manufacturing industry is still firmly in recession and the outlook for the coming months remains gloomy, according to a survey by the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI's 6th industrial trends survey, published yesterday, will provide a sharp reminder to the Government that whatever the industrial strategy and oil wealth may promise for the longer term the problems of the present remain severe.

EEC allows Britain to devalue green pound in two stages

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 31
Britain's request to be allowed to devalue the green pound by 7.5 per cent, which had been blocked since early last week by the West Germans, the Dutch and the Belgians, was finally granted here today at a special meeting of EEC agricultural ministers.

Mr John Silkin, the British Minister, pronounced himself more than satisfied with the outcome which, ironically enough, is rather closer to what he himself had originally wanted than the immediate, across-the-board devaluation demanded last week by the House of Commons.

Mr Sadat stands firm over Palestinians

Egypt will not compromise on the principle of self-determination for the Palestinians, President Sadat has again made clear. This was the main obstacle to a Middle East settlement, he said. If a solution was not found, "everything will collapse". The Egyptians have not been impressed with the latest indications of Israeli thinking relayed to them by Mr Atherton, American Assistant Secretary of State, who arrived in Cairo on Monday from Jerusalem.

End of radio jamming clears air in Russia

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 31
One of the most difficult concessions made by the Russians at the Helsinki conference two years ago was an agreement not to jam the broadcasts of radio stations sponsored by Western governments.

They have kept their word: the BBC, the Voice of America, Deutsche Welle all come over loud and clear and have a large number of listeners.

Food price cuts 'will cost £90m'

Big grocery chains could lose profits of more than £90m this year because of the price-cutting war. Mr Laurence Hill, chairman of International Stores, coupled this prediction with a warning that some companies might be forced out of business.

Military questions prominent in talks with Patriotic Front

From David Spenser
Diplomatic Correspondent
Vientiane, Jan 31
The Rhodesia talks in Maseru got down to serious business today. Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Andrew Young, the United States Special Envoy, on one side, and Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe for the Patriotic Front on the other, met in restricted session through the afternoon.

An African delegate emerged to say that "the talks are continuing very well" but apart from that little information leaked out.

Medicines defeat for Government

The Government was defeated in a Commons standing committee on its order to add many animal and human medicines to the prescription-only list. The Speaker refused an opposition demand for an emergency debate, and Mr Deakin, Under-Secretary, Health and Social Security, said a transitional exemption period would be introduced. He denied it would cause confusion.

Gun disappoints Royal Marines

Royal Marines deployed on NATO's northern flank in Norway are disappointed by the performance of their new light 105mm gun. The Wessex helicopter cannot transport the 105mm gun as it could be damaged by the rough terrain.

Lonrho case goes to arbitration

A High Court judge saved proceedings brought against Lonrho and BP by the oil company, which is suing the two companies for damages in connection with the Rhodesia oil crisis.

El Dorado gold for London

The main exhibition at the Royal Academy next winter will be "The Gold of El Dorado". It will be the most comprehensive collection of pre-Hispanic gold items ever seen outside Colombia.

State staff ask for 'going rate'

Civil Service unions and railway workers have presented pay claims seeking at least the "going rate" in private industry. Two other claims exceeding the Government's guidelines are about to be lodged.

Safety changes to reactors

Britain's nuclear installations inspectorate is asking for minor design changes to ensure higher safety standards in the advanced gas-cooled nuclear reactors authorized by the Government last week.

Transport Bill: An amendment providing for inclusion of district councils in county transport planning in England and Wales has been accepted by the Government

Washington: Britain accused of misleading the aviation world 6

Obituary: page 16

Dr Wilhelm Delp: The Marquis of Northampton; Tim Crick: Sussex dismiss Greig as captain; John Woodcock looks at the performance of the Labour Party; Football: Two London clubs score six goals in FA Cup all-time record at Newcastle; Business: Profits and gifts lost ground in dull trading and the FT index closed 3.0 down at 467.0

Financial Editor: Tobacco leads BAT profits up; Reed International: Canada's impact; Wall Street: Third market; Business: Features: Colin Clark argues that measurement of productivity should not focus solely on the performance of labour; A reversal in the fortunes of the German chemicals industry is examined by Peter Norman; Business Diary: The EEC customs union is a mess

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Paddy Kitchen on paintings by Claude Lorraine; Albert Camus: Michael Riffkind on 'The Plague'; Ned Chaffin on 'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho; Irving Berlin on 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald

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King in Vienna

Vienna, Jan 31.—King Juan Carlos of Spain began a state visit here today.—Reuter.

Warning of 15-25% rise in house prices this year

By Margaret Stua
House prices might rise by between 15 and 25 per cent this year, Mr Tim Timberlake, chief general manager of the Abbey National Building Society, said yesterday. The official building society view is that prices may increase by between 12 and 15 per cent.

Lord Hill of Luton, chairman of the society, the second largest in Britain, commenting on its report for 1977, said that house prices would inevitably rise as confidence began to return.

Talks with minister fail to end petrol dispute

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter
An overtime ban and work-to-rule by 8,000 oil company tanker drivers will go ahead today despite an hour of talks last night between Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, and Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the transport and General Workers' Union.

The meeting, held at Mr Rodgers's request, failed to lift the call for sanctions from mid-night last night by shop stewards at Shell, BP, Esso and Texaco.

Historist rescued on fourth day under snow

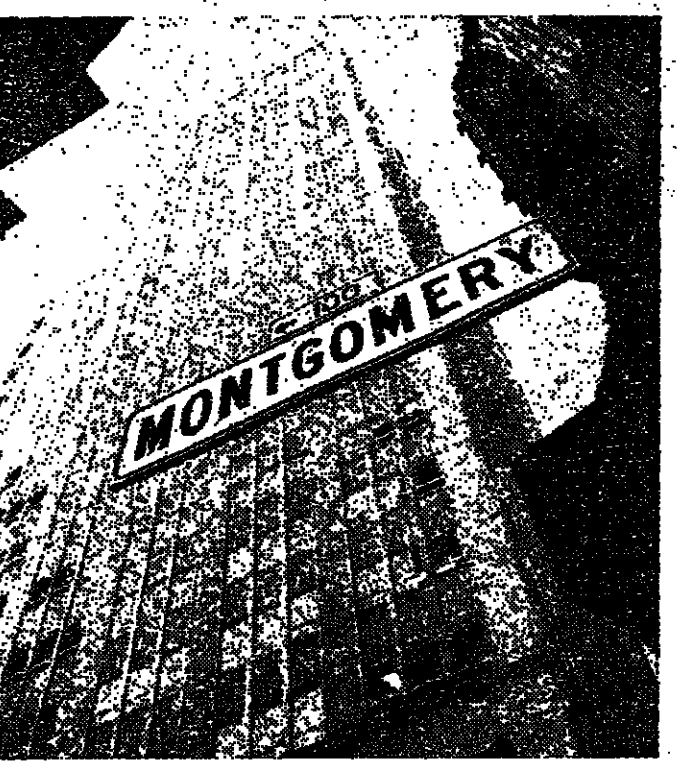
Reporters
William Sutherland, who had been trapped beneath a snowdrift in Scotland for almost a week, was found alive by a snowplough.

Mr Sutherland, 40, was found by a snowplough on a road near the Orkney Islands. He had been trapped for four days under a deep snowdrift.

MP to put football first

Mr John Ryman, Labour MP for Blyth, is to defy a three-line whip during the committee stage of the Scotland Bill in the Commons tonight to attend a football match at St James' Park.

He said: "The whips can explode as much as they like. Football is more important than politics and footballers are more amusing than politicians."



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HOME NEWS

Immigration analysis shows that moves to cut the inflow would clash with commitments

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The difficulties a government would have in reducing immigration from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan without going back on commitments are disclosed by close analysis of immigration figures.

Some clue to Conservative thinking may be given by a parliamentary question asked by Mr Keith Saeed on December 1. He asked what proportion of 1976 total of such immigrants allowed to settle in the United Kingdom were not wives and children, or men holding British passports.

The answer from Mr Rees, Home Secretary, was 35 per cent. The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) regards that as roughly equivalent to the figure of 20,000 that the Conservatives are said to be looking at as a possible target for cuts.

The biggest component, according to the JCWI, is 6,630 people immune from deportation. Their immunity was granted under the Commonwealth Immigration Act, 1971, to Commonwealth citizens who had been settled here for five years on January 1, 1973.

The government had been extending their stay but Mr Alex Lyon, when Minister of State at the Home Office, recognized their immunity by removing conditions of stay. Included in the settlement figures by a statistical quirk, they will not be included in the following years. They include such people as students who had been here for five years.

The next biggest figure is

6,519 husbands. As a result of a change in the rules in 1974, women settled here were allowed to bring their husbands. The change was in line with moves for women's equality of opportunity.

Also included in the 20,000 total are 543 "grand-parents", Commonwealth citizens with grandparents born in the United Kingdom. The concession was intended mainly for Canadians, New Zealanders and Australians not wishing to sever ties with Britain.

There are 213 people, like doctors, who have completed four years' approved employment, and 2,100 women holding United Kingdom passports, leaving only a further 4,589 other people. They include a few elderly parents, dependent children over 18, distressed relatives and other compassionate cases.

Another suggestion is that the Conservatives should compile a register of dependants of settled immigrants. It could be used as a basis for ending the commitment to such categories. But the Franks committee concluded that a voluntary register would not work.

A compulsory register, the committee found, would run into humanitarian and legal objections. "They flow from natural human concern lest families should be prevented from living together, an affront to the belief that those settled here should have the reasonable expectation, unless given clearly to the contrary, that their families will be allowed to settle with them."

These are embodied in the immigration law of this

country, and find expression in the European Convention on Human Rights, and the fundamental freedoms.

The committee calculated that in 1975 the categories of acceptances for settlement that could and should be covered in a register made up only about 35 per cent of the total.

Such a register, the committee said, could take no account of such categories as the unborn child, or a man's future wife whom he had not met, or a parent or grandparent who was not yet dependent but might become so, and those who did not take up their entitlement to come.

Voluntary repatriation has been suggested by Mr Powell. Evidence given by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to the select committee on Race Relations and Immigration on May 12 last year shows the extent to which the migration from the west Indies has gone into reverse. From mid-1971-76 5,000 more people with West Indian citizenship emigrated from the United Kingdom than immigrated here.

Two schemes already assist immigrants wishing to leave. One, run by the International Social Service under the Immigration Act, 1971 can pay fares of people who have failed to settle and in whose interests it would be to return home if they were up to December, only 965 people in 345 families had left under the scheme, mostly to the West Indies and West Africa.

Since 1973 another 530 people have been helped to leave under a scheme run by

the Department of Health and Social Security. One condition is that the immigrant has no prospect of making a success of his life here; another that payment of the fare can ultimately save public funds.

Another issue arising from Mr Thatcher's interview is the estimate that four million people of New Commonwealth and Pakistani origin might be living here by the end of the century. The figure is assumed to come from the Franks report, which put it tentatively at 3,800,000.

But Professor William Brass, professor of medical demography at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, predicted in a BBC television programme that the figure would be 3,300,000. He emphasized the fall in fertility among West Indians, now only marginally higher than for the white population. Wolverhampton fear: Mr John Bird, the Labour leader of Wolverhampton council, said Mr Thatcher's remarks about immigration were bound to make things worse in the town (Robert Parker writes).

He recalled that on Friday night police struggled to separate about 150 West Indian youths from white youths who were leaving a public house in town centre.

The police, having separated two groups, were later attacked by some West Indians. Five policemen were hurt and seven people arrested. Mr Bird said that Mrs Thatcher's remarks were an election gimmick and that she was doing the National Front's job.

Leading article, page 15

Mr Orme urged to extend aid to children overseas

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Race relations will be badly damaged if the Government implements plans to withdraw child tax allowances for children overseas when child benefits for those in Britain go up in April.

That warning was given yesterday when a deputation from ethnic minority organizations urged Mr Orme, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, to extend child benefit to dependants overseas of parents working here.

Tax-free child benefit is usually paid to the mother. The April increase to £2.30 a child will be financed partly by a reduction in the child tax allowance claimed by the

father. A family in Britain will gain £7 a week for one child, £10.1 for two, £13.5 for three, £1.69 for four.

Parents with dependent children overseas will lose part of their child tax allowances, but they cannot claim child benefit instead. They will lose £1.30 a week for one child, £2.60 for two, £3.92 for three, £5.23 for four. Allowances are claimed for about 500,000 children living overseas.

Families most affected will be those from New Commonwealth countries.

The deputation represented the Commonwealth Taxpayers Association, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, the National Association of Community Relations Councils, and the Child Poverty Action Group.

Union leaders' warning on National Front campaign

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Two trade union leaders yesterday called on workers to attempt to win supporters in the Labour movement.

Mr Ywen O'Brien, general secretary of the National Graphical and Media Personnel (Nasopa) devoted the entire front page of his union's journal to "this threat to the trade union movement and the very fabric of our democratic system."

Mr Tom Jenkins, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU), asked white-collar rail employees to report racist literature.

Mr O'Brien expresses grievous concern at the National

Front and gives a warning against the idea "that this can't happen here."

Reactionary and evil forces are using racial and religious discrimination as a platform to smash "all that we and our forefathers have fought for," he said.

Commenting on Judge McKinnon's references to "niggers, wogs and coons", Mr O'Brien argues that they are the spectre of racialist in offices, factories and the streets, "with all the evil that the National Front can bend their minds to."

In his appeal, Mr Jenkins said: "The TSSA has consistently made clear its abhorrence and opposition to any form of prejudice based on the colour or creed of individuals."



Mr Patrick Neill: "I am no crusading spirit."

Lawyer don't to oversee the press

By Peter Strafford

Mr Patrick Neill, QC, Wardens of All Souls College, Oxford, is to be the new chairman of the Press Council, succeeding Lord Shawcross, QC, on October 1. By his own account, he will take a cautious approach to the job and will not try to introduce any startling departures.

"I am no crusading spirit," he said yesterday in an interview. "I do not consider that there are Augean stables that have to be cleaned out. As a lawyer, I simply have no preconceptions about fairness, and the standards that should be maintained."

Mr Neill, who is 51, was appointed by a formal decision of the Press Council yesterday. He will be the first chairman of the body since its creation in 1963. The report of the Royal Commission on the Press, which recommended that the Press Council should continue on broadly the same basis as it has in the past, except for changes in its membership.

That recommendation was evidence that the council had done a good job, Mr Neill said, and that it should be kept in existence. There had been an improvement in the standards observed in the press as a result of the council's activities.

The function of the council, in his view, was to "preserve and improve standards." That was an area where the law could not enter, since the council could not issue any directives. It would work only if the adjudications were honoured by the press.

Mr Neill has been associated with All Souls since 1950, when he was elected to a prize fellowship there. But he has also been active as a lawyer and has become one of the leading figures at the commercial bar.

He achieved a certain prominence as defending counsel in the case against Lord Alton of Liverpool in the 1960s. He also took a strong stand against the European Communities Act, 1972, by which Britain joined the EEC, arguing that it had overthrown constitutional law and tradition.

A tall, courteous man who chooses his words carefully, he said he saw no difficulty in combining his new job with being a member of All Souls. "All Souls has always liked to associate the academic world with the world of reality," he said.

He has not had any association with the press hitherto, and is cautious about tackling some of the more burning issues. He has not, for instance, closed shops. Perhaps he will at some point, he says, but he thinks that that is an area the Press Council should keep out of.

Mr Neill is married and has six children. His hobbies are music and forestry.

Dismissed police chief gets full pension rights

Mr Edmund Garvey, who was dismissed as Commissioner of Police in the Irish Republic, should have known that he was about to be dismissed, Mr Lynch, the Irish Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Mr Lynch, in the first public government statement on the controversial dismissal, said Mr Garvey must have been aware for some time that the Government was concerned about the way he was running the police.

The Prime Minister also disclosed that the former commissioner was to receive severance pay of £2,250, full pension and gratuity rights.

Mr Garvey said at his home in Dublin yesterday evening: "The matter is in the hands of my legal advisers and I shall be meeting them tomorrow for a crucial consultation."

Islanders 'not to blame' in murder

Islanders in the Shetlands have nothing to blame themselves for over the death of Stephen Menhennitt, aged 19, beaten to death by his father, the youth's eldest brother, William, says in a letter addressed to them all.

Mr Justice Wilks, judging the father for life last year, said not a soul on St Mary's except a dentist had helped the boy. Mr William Menhennitt, however, wrote: "No one really knew what he was doing to Stephen except one of my sisters, and she was scared of my father."

'Reveille' stopped

Reveille has not been printed for the second week running because of a pay dispute affecting members of the National Graphical Association, Mirror Group Newspapers said last night.

Walk-out at hospital after porter's death

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

The result of a post-mortem examination of a porter at Westminster Hospital, London, whose death in the casualty department led to a walk-out by domestic staff, should be known today.

Shop stewards of the National Union of Public Employees instigated unofficial action, maintaining that the porter, Mr Loreto Galano, a Filipino, aged 35, had been left without medical attention for more than an hour.

A regional hospital board official said yesterday that Mr Galano was admitted to the casualty department at 9.30 am with a general letter from his general practitioner. He was seen at about 11 am and the examining doctor asked for tests, including a chest X-ray examination. The results of those were still awaited when Mr Galano collapsed at about 1 pm.

The hospital said that if the unofficial action continued, a halt to admissions would have to be considered in a day or two.

The Department of Health and Social Security said a complaint had been received from the union's officials at Westminster Hospital but there had been no formal request for an inquiry.

Strategy for museums urged on Government

By Kenneth Gosling Arts Reporter

It was time the Government worked out a strategy for museums and galleries instead of coming up with its present ad hoc solutions to recurrent crises at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Museums Association said yesterday.

The association's comment comes at a time when the Victoria and Albert Museum is facing from April 1 with the closure of a third of its galleries because of staff shortages.

Dr Roy Strong, director of V & A, who was given permission by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to appear on BBC television last night, emphasized yesterday that the museum probably had more popular support than any other national collection. "People feel that their own heritage is being violated," he said.

Both the Stranding Commission on Museums and Galleries, which is recommending trustees status for the museum, and the office of the minister responsible for the arts were aware that something had to be done, he added. The V & A had an immense public following and was not to be treated as a branch of the Post Office.

"Any museum," Dr Strong said, "is a highly volatile and creative sort of place." While the V & A staff had to be reduced from 731 to 526, the British Museum,

virtually the same size, had 400 more staff and was advertising for more. The most important point, emphasized at a conference at Ditchley last week, was that such an insurance should have a buffer between it and the Government.

It was possible, Dr Strong said, that an organization of Friends of the V & A might be launched, perhaps coinciding with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's forthcoming visit to start the museum's acquisitions show.

He also commented on a point made by the Museum's Association: that despite changes in attitude towards the arts in the intervening years the standing commission's terms of reference had not changed since 1951.

"The British Museum has a whole person represented on that body," he said. "I have one fifth of a person: I am not sure whether that means a foot or a finger."

Kenwood: Certain rooms at Kenwood, the house bequeathed to the nation with its collection of pictures, valued at £4m, and furniture by Lord Iveagh, are having to be closed for short periods so that the available staff can take essential breaks. The publications counter and exhibition galleries are closing on certain days.

Two assistant curators have been offered voluntary redundancy by the GLC, which is responsible for Kenwood.

Campaign for secret polls by Tor students

By Our Education Correspondent

A national campaign to make student unions more democratic was launched by the Federal of Conservative Students yesterday. The federation wants union officials, conference delegates and members of student representative councils to be elected by a secret ballot of students.

At the last National Union Students conference in December, only 30 of the 317 union officials, polytechnics and colleges which sent delegates elected them by secret ballot a third (104) had been elected by secret ballot. The rest were elected by open ballot, a fifth (61) by the student quarter (80) by the student executive, Mr David Wilks, chairman of the federation said.

The student councils and union executives had in the past usually been elected by open ballot, which was usually attended only by a handful of students, added. But the federation believed that the vast majority of students did not go to college in order to attend regular meetings of which were held: site perhaps six or seven from the student's own campus.

The federation, a communist president of the N said last December that many of the unions were "atrophied and empty shells." But despite her bold words left-wing extremists in the unions were still active in order to maintain power against the wishes of the majority, Mr Wilks said.

Students automatically came members of student unions when they joined a college and were tied to have their voice heard. The federation believed it could best be achieved by all-day secret ballot, which would spread across the various colleges, such an election should be preceded by usual meetings and canvassing, he said.

If there were a national secret ballot of students, Federation of Conservative Students could expect to win a third and a half the votes, the social democrats Labour party one third, and remainder going to parties little further to the left, Wilks claimed. At the last conference, the Conservats represented about 130 of the 550 university delegates.

Each university or college may send one delegate to a national conference for 1,000 students enrolled.

Pressure for vote for Britons in EEC countries

Conservative MPs, with some support from other parties, are increasing their pressure on the Government for British subjects resident in other EEC countries to have the right to vote in direct elections to the European Parliament.

Mr William Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party and spokesman on home affairs, has tabled an amendment to the European Assembly Elections Bill seeking to allow proxy votes to people who are on the electoral register in the United Kingdom but are living in another EEC country.

Naval officer said to have put his family first

From Our Correspondent Dunfermline

A naval officer who was said to have put his wife and family before the Service was ordered at a court martial at Rosyth, Fife, yesterday, to be dismissed his ship and lose 18 months' seniority.

Lieutenant William Knight, aged 25, whose home is at Portlough, Dorset, admitted absenting himself without leave from his ship, HMS Sheildan, an offshore oil protection ship, for more than 30 hours on November 21 last year.

It was stated that when he left the ship at 3 am he left it for his commanding officer, Lieutenant-Commander Will McKnight, who telephoned the defendant's wife. After talking to her, McKnight ordered him to return to his ship.

Lieutenant-Commander T. Chirch, for the defence, said there had been an act of oppression brought about by the defendant's wife, Catherine, who betrayed her unhappiness. She was suffering from a mental depression and had said she would go with the child to the Republic of Ireland.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars

Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, N. Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Steat and snow moderate falls, chiefly over high ground, rain in places; wind E, fresh; max temp 2°C (36°F).

Argyll, NW Scotland: Bright periods, occasional light rain or sleet, snow on hills; wind NE, moderate of fresh; max temp 3°C (37°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Steat or snow in many places, but also bright periods, especially on Friday; becoming colder with night frost.

St George's Channel: Wind NW, strong to gale; sea very rough.

Irish Sea: Wind E, strong; sea very rough.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max. 6 am to 10 am, 5°C (41°F); min. 6 pm to 6 am, 0°C (32°F). Humidity: 6 pm, 89 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.0 in. Sun, 5hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, 1,002.5 mbars.

1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

Today

sun rises: 7.40 am Sun sets: 4.30 pm

Moon rises: Moon sets: 1.5 am 11.8 am

New moon: February 7, 11.8 am

Lighting up: 5.20 pm to 7.8 am

High water: London Bridge, 6.31 am, 6.6m (21.7ft); 7.13 pm, 6.5m (21.3ft). Avonmouth, 11.34 am, 10.7m (35.2ft). Dover, 6.1m (20.0ft); 4.30 pm, 5.7m (18.8ft). Hull, 11.23 am, 6.1m (19.9ft); 11.43 pm, 6.2m (20.5ft). Liverpool, 4.12 am, 6.0m (20.0ft); 4.35 pm, 8.0m (26.3ft).

A deep low will move E across the British Isles.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE England, East Anglia, Midlands, S. Wales: aRin, heavy at times; wind W, strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Central & SW England, Channel Islands: Rain, heavy at times, clear intervals later; wind W, strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).

NW, Central N. England, N. Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, SW Scotland, N. Ireland: Rain, heavy at times, snow on hills; wind SE, fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Naval officer said to have put his family first

From Our Correspondent Dunfermline

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February forecast

The Meteorological Office yesterday issued the following forecast for February:

Rather cold, changeable weather is expected to continue for a month, with conditions that will be mostly dry, but with occasional rain or snow.

Mean temperatures for a month are expected to be above average in most districts, but below average in E. Scotland, E. England and East Angles. Rain totals are expected to be above average in all districts.

Gales are likely to be more frequent than usual, especially in N.E. Fog, frost and snow are expected to occur with less average frequency than in most months but near average in the E and N.

Overseas selling prices

Austria, 6 sh 18 p, Belgium, 6 sh 18 p, Canada, 6 sh 18 p, Denmark, 6 sh 18 p, France, 6 sh 18 p, Germany, 6 sh 18 p, Greece, 6 sh 18 p, Hong Kong, 6 sh 18 p, India, 6 sh 18 p, Japan, 6 sh 18 p, Korea, 6 sh 18 p, Malaysia, 6 sh 18 p, New Zealand, 6 sh 18 p, Norway, 6 sh 18 p, Portugal, 6 sh 18 p, Spain, 6 sh 18 p, Sweden, 6 sh 18 p, Switzerland, 6 sh 18 p, Taiwan, 6 sh 18 p, Thailand, 6 sh 18 p, Turkey, 6 sh 18 p, U.S.A., 6 sh 18 p, U.K., 6 sh 18 p, Yugoslavia, 6 sh 18 p.

Published daily except Sundays, January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

Printed by the Times Newspapers Ltd, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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Yesterday

London: Temp: max. 6 am to 10 am, 5°C (41°F); min. 6 pm to 6 am, 0°C (32°F). Humidity: 6 pm, 89 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.0 in. Sun, 5hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, 1,002.5 mbars.

1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

Today

sun rises: 7.40 am Sun sets: 4.30 pm

Moon rises: Moon sets: 1.5 am 11.8 am

New moon: February 7, 11.8 am

Lighting up: 5.20 pm to 7.8 am

High water: London Bridge, 6.31 am, 6.6m (21.7ft); 7.13 pm, 6.5m (21.3ft). Avonmouth, 11.34 am, 10.7m (35.2ft). Dover, 6.1m (20.0ft); 4.30 pm, 5.7m (18.8ft). Hull, 11.23 am, 6.1m (19.9ft); 11.43 pm, 6.2m (20.5ft). Liverpool, 4.12 am, 6.0m (20.0ft); 4.35 pm, 8.0m (26.3ft).

A deep low will move E across the British Isles.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE England, East Anglia, Midlands, S. Wales: aRin, heavy at times; wind W, strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Central & SW England, Channel Islands: Rain, heavy at times, clear intervals later; wind W, strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).

NW, Central N. England, N. Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, SW Scotland, N. Ireland: Rain, heavy at times, snow on hills; wind SE, fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Printed in Great Britain by the Times Newspapers Ltd.

HOME NEWS

Government defeated but no emergency debate on medicines

Mr. Winder, Secretary of State for Health, was defeated in a Commons stand-off yesterday in an attempt to defer implementation of a new order for more medicines on the shelves available only on prescription.

The defeat came after a statement by Mr. Winder that the Government would not introduce an amendment to exempt drugs from the list for a transitional period. Mr. Winder said that the Government was not ready to make a decision to annul the original Government's proposed order which would have become law today and the transitional period could be effective for two weeks.

Dealing with earlier and more serious medicines, the Government said it would apply to animal medicines, but not to human medicines. It was not possible to make an order in a few days, but it would be made as soon as possible and the transitional period would be as long as possible.

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Pavilion may be rebuilt gradually in glass-fibre

By Alan Hamilton

The gradual rebuilding of many parts of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, in glass-fibre is to be considered by Brighton Borough Council.

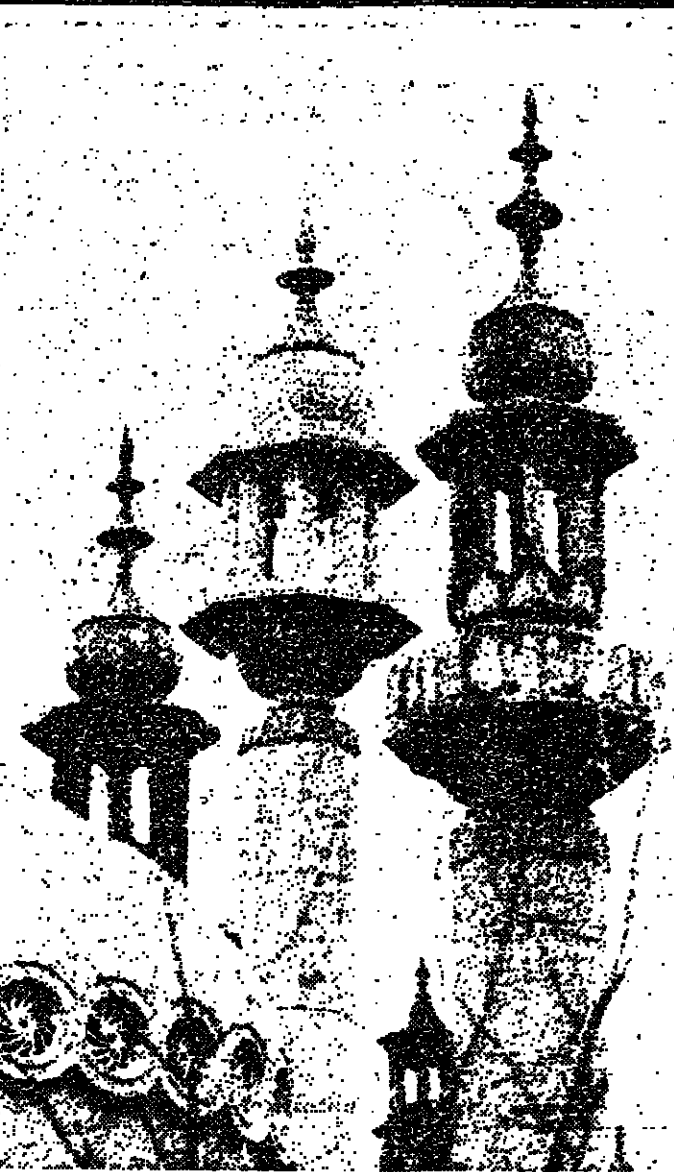
John Nash's spectacular architectural ornament, built for the Prince Regent between 1815 and 1820 and now succumbing to the ravages of time, tempest and sea air, is being replaced piece by piece in a material whose benefits the Regency architect had to do without.

The substitution began in 1974, when a survey showed that 16 minarets on the roof were badly in need of attention. Some were so decayed that they had to be dismantled in one go. Shortly afterwards some of the minarets on the eastern side, the pavilion's least-seen facade, were replaced with glass-fibre copies, which the council says have not been an unqualified success. Eight minarets on the prominent western side now need to be replaced.

Nash used Bath stone, and the council estimated nearly two years ago that to replace the eight towers in that material would cost £112,723. To rebuild in the slightly inferior Maxim French stone would cost £87,000 and to make glass-fibre copies would cost only £49,526.

The Historic Buildings Council, asked for a grant to pay for restoration, favoured glass-fibre copies and offered just over £12,000 to cover a quarter of the cost. Brighton could rebuild in stone if it wanted, but the grant would be the same, the council said.

That decision disappointed the council and angered conservationists, who want the proper materials. Mrs Jennifer Jenkins, chairman of the



The minaret in the centre is a replacement made of glass-fibre; the others are of Bath stone, now decaying.

Historic Buildings Council, Brighton council remains dissatisfied and has not taken up the grant.

The pavilion has been in continuous state of restoration for 30 years.

Second Summerland judgment reserved

From John Chartres
Douglas, Isle of Man

Mr. Robert Eason, First Deemster of the Isle of Man, reserved judgment yesterday in the second contested damages case to come before his court as a result of the Summerland fire disaster four years ago.

The case concerned Ruth McQuillan, aged nine, of Hillsborough, Northern Ireland, who suffered burns to both legs and her right hand when she and her mother escaped from the burning building.

Ruth McQuillan's younger sister, Lynda, who was dropped by her father into the arms of a rescuer on the ground, was recently awarded £2,000 agreed damages.

Yesterday's action in the Manx High Court was, like the one on Monday, directed against Trust Houses Forte Leisure Ltd and its Isle of Man subsidiary, Summerland Ltd, which admits general, but not specific, liability and contests the substantial damages claimed.

Mrs Neil Hanson, for Ruth McQuillan, claimed that she suffered injury and nervous shock and would probably face serious emotional upset and distress later.

In evidence, her father recalled the events when he, his wife, Muriel, and his two daughters, visited Summerland. He said that after he had seen smoke coming through a vent-lator, he decided to take his family down from the top floor even though a Summerland employee was declaring that there had only been a chip-pan fire and that nobody should panic.

After rescuing his younger child he had been taken to hospital, but he returned to Summerland to search for his wife. His elder child meanwhile was taken to hospital.

Mr. Summerland, he was advised to seek treatment for burns to his own face and hands. When he boarded an ambulance he found his wife alive but injured.

Mr. Berry Stanley, for the defendants, said there was no doubt that the child had suffered very serious injuries, but he maintained that she had recovered from physical illness and that there was evidence that she was getting on well.

More damages for libel awarded to Lord Wigg

Lord Wigg, former chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, who accepted £5,000 libel damages in June, 1976, against Mr. Nigel Dempster, a journalist, yesterday received a further damages award in the High Court, said to be £2,500, in respect of the same libel.

The agreed award yesterday against Mr. Dempster was because of remarks he made on BBC television in September, 1976, that the apology in June, 1976, had been made without his knowledge or consent. Mr. Dempster said after the hearing: "I have now paid Lord Wigg £7,500 and, with costs, I shall have paid out about £17,000."

Mr. Richard Rampton, counsel for Lord Wigg, told Mr. Justice May that in 1975 Mr. Dempster wrote an article in *Private Eye* that cast grave doubts on Lord Wigg's honesty and integrity. Lord Wigg sued Mr. Dempster and the publishers of *Private Eye*, and in June, 1976, the actions were settled. Mr. Dempster withdrew the allegations and made a full apology to Lord Wigg.

Mr. Dempster's remarks in the television programme were understood as in effect asserting the truth of the original libel, counsel said. As Mr. Dempster had always recognized, there was, in fact, no justification for any such assertion.

Man unaware his home was drug centre, QC says

David Todd did not know that his "study" was a drug factory, it was stated by defence counsel at Bristol Crown Court yesterday. He was unaware that the house he stayed in while studying for examinations was the centre of a world network supplying 95 per cent of Britain's LSD and half of his free world's.

Mr. Michael Self, QC, was opening the defence in the trial of Mr. Todd, aged 24, of Cumberland Street, Edinburgh, and Martin Annable, a teacher, of Radnor Gardens, Twickenham, London, who are accused of conspiring with others to supply LSD.

He said the prosecution had alleged that the house had been amasssed through the drug ring, but Mr. Todd had no fortune. "Where are the spoils?"

Where is the evidence that points to his taking part in this massive operation?" he asked.

Mr. Todd, he said, had difficulty finding accommodation in June, 1976, when he was studying. He was offered a house at Hampton Wick by a close friend.

"He will tell you that during that period the house was sparsely furnished, but he did not notice anything untoward or illegal going on," Mr. Self said.

Districts 'should have say on transport'

By Our Parliamentary Staff

The Government accepted the first amendment, proposed by the Opposition, to include district councils in country transport planning in England and Wales, at the start of standing committee consideration of the Transport Bill yesterday.

Changes in the law relating to transport and road traffic are proposed in the Bill, which requires publication of county public transport plans.

It proposes to amend bus licensing law, provide for some additional requirements relating to licences, for the licensing of privately operated public car parks, extend the limits on passenger support payments to British Rail, and contains provisions for the financial reconstruction of the National Freight Corporation.

Local authorities, from parish to county councils, figured prominently in the opening debate on the amendment, moved by Mr. Norman Fowler, opposition spokesman on transport, to include district councils with county councils and public passenger transport service operators in consultations on passenger transport policies required under clause 1.

Mr. Fowler said the Opposition wanted to see true local devolution with local people involved more in transport decision making. They were trying to place a duty in the Bill on county councils to consult district councils and the over-owners in the construction of the transport plans for local areas.

Mr. Horam, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said the intention of the Bill was to try to raise the level of performance of some counties that had not exercised their powers and responsibilities with the skill and willpower the Government would have liked to see.

Date set for security levy

The British Airports Authority intends to charge an 80p a head security levy as a separate passenger supplement from April 1, Mr. Davies, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade, said yesterday.

He was addressing the Commons standing committee considering the Civil Aviation Bill. The levy is to provide a fund to protect aircraft and airports from terrorists.

Students 'facing hardship'

ish students are a declining group facing serious hardship, says in his report the academic year 1976-1977.

They have trebled over the three years and there are rising fears of unemployment after graduation.

Professor Dahrendorf describes the mood of students as one of frustration. "Students in the 1960s were the expression of a new sense of confidence on the part of the articulate representatives of a rising group. Student politics in the 1970s is the expression of a new sense of anxiety and diffidence. Gone are the high spirits, the clever ideas, the great hopes of the 1960s."

He believes that one consequence of student frustration may be greater violence, although the LSE has experienced little of it.

Lover drowned himself over lost letters

Mr. Barry Seddon, aged 34, a toy maker, drowned himself because letters he was expecting from a woman in France who was expecting his baby never arrived, it was stated at an inquest at Brighton.

Cathy Collette, aged 24, had written four times to Mr. Seddon, but the letters were delivered to the wrong address in the Christmas mail. She was prevented from sending a telegram by a strike in France.

Mr. Seddon, of Mawling Street, Lewes, tried to catch a ferry to France but there was a strike at French ports. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

No action against nurse in contempt of court case

From Our Correspondent
Edinburgh

No further criminal proceedings are to be taken against Mrs Margaret Atkins, aged 35, an Edinburgh nursing sister who was involved in a recent contempt of court case against London Weekend Television.

That was announced in Edinburgh yesterday by Mr. Ronald King Murray, QC, the Lord Advocate, after he had studied the judgment of the High Court in relation to the petition brought against London Weekend Television by Mrs Atkins.

London Weekend Television was fined £50,000 and three of its executives a total of £11,000 last month for contempt.

The Weekend World programme on November 13, discussed whether treatment should be withdrawn from some hospital patients so that they would be left to die.

Mrs Atkins was accused of obstructing the air supply to Elizabeth Semple, aged 13, now dead, in the intensive care unit at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. She had pleaded not guilty.

Lord Emslie, Lord Justice General, said the High Court entertained the gravest doubts whether a fair and impartial trial was now possible.



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Public sector seeking to match private industry's pay rates

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Public sector pay bargaining moved into a critical phase yesterday when Civil Service unions and railway workers presented claims that seek at least as much as the "going rate" in private industry.

The state-run Gas Corporation gave 40,000 manual workers a revised offer that still falls short of the Cabinet's 10 per cent earnings policy, and unions will give their response on February 22.

A consortium of seven Civil Service unions lodged an unspecified "substantial" claim, but made clear that they would not accept less than 10 per cent on earnings.

The other two Civil Service unions, the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) and the Society of Civil and Public Servants, are about to lodge claims that greatly exceed the Government's 10 per cent policy.

The 500,000 non-industrial civil servants are due for a rise in April, as are the railway workers. Both want consolidation of the phase one and two increases into basic rates so that they count in overtime and bonus calculations. That would substantially increase earnings.

The CPSA claim ranges from 14 per cent to 24 per cent for different grades, and the society, which will present its demand today, has been talking in terms of 20 per cent to 30 per cent.

The likely response from the Civil Service Department is to offer an identical increase to all unions, which obviously will be within the 10 per cent guidelines. Six or 7 per cent on basic rates appears to be the likely first offer.

The consortium of Civil Service unions told the Civil Service Department that it should have used the statutory code of discipline, which carries a right of appeal to the Home Secretary after two preliminary stages and ensures full staff pay during suspension.

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Theatres in peril, 3: Manchester must decide between the Palace and the Opera House

Stars join battle over which building should be saved

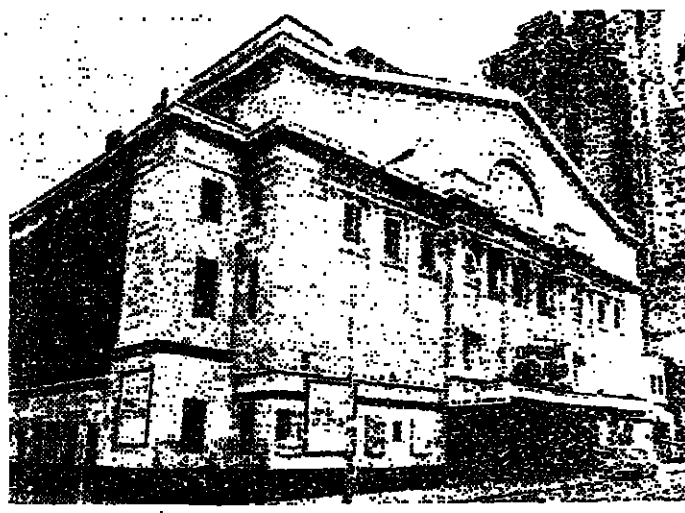
By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

A last attempt to save the Manchester Opera House as a home for live theatre is being mounted, with some success, by the owners, Howard and Wyndham.

In recent months the conflicting claims of the Opera House and the other big Manchester theatre in danger of closure, the Palace, have been canvassed by various groups, well aware that there are neither adequate funds nor enough touring shows to preserve both.

The Arts Council and leading touring companies strongly support the Palace, as the theatre most easily converted to take even the largest touring companies. When it was announced two weeks ago that a businessman had bought the Palace, with the aim of handing it over to an independent trust, the issue seemed settled.

But the purchase from Moss Empires was conditional on backing from the Greater Manchester Council, which has offered £150,000 to help to save one of the theatres, plus £15,000 a year towards running costs. The council's arts and recreation committee has long favoured the Opera House, but it was presumed that members would change their minds, especially as the man behind the Palace purchase, Mr Raymond Slater, a director of the Norwest Holst property



The Opera House: soon a bingo hall?

company, had himself favoured the Opera House until he became convinced that the Palace was the one to back.

However, the heads of Howard and Wyndham went to Manchester to lobby committee members, and their efforts bore fruit. When the committee met last week it deferred any decision, despite pressure from the council's leadership, to back the Palace.

On Monday it met again, hearing evidence from all the parties involved, but after talks lasting the whole day agreement was not reached. Another meeting has been arranged for next

Monday when, after viewing the two theatres, the committee hopes to reach a decision.

As one observer commented: "It's the longest running show in town."

Mr Jack Phipps, director of touring for the Arts Council, said the crucial issues were the width of the proscenium arches in the two theatres and the amount of space in the wings. The Palace arch was several feet wider than its rival and there was plenty of room in the wings.

No one wants to go against local opinion but the space at the Palace is fantastic," he

said. He admitted that the Opera House already had a large orchestra pit, but said it would be relatively simple to provide that at the Palace.

While the battle continues behind the scenes the stars are making public contributions to the debate. Ken Dodd, whose Guinness sherry saved the Palace from immediate closure, has been campaigning hard. "It would be like losing your granny if the Palace went," he said.

Last week Stanley Baxter, starring in *Jack and the Beanstalk* at the Opera House, presented the GMC with a petition, signed by nearly 50,000 signatures, urging the preservation of that theatre.

If the council does support the Palace it will be transferred to a charitable trust, which will launch an appeal for money to renovate the building. Between £600,000 and £850,000 may be needed.

Given enough contributions, including money from the Greater Manchester Council, work could begin in June and ought to be completed early next year.

The Opera House, with its listed facade, may appear the more attractive proposition to the public, and the image of the Palace as a home for variety shows rather than more cultural presentations has not helped, but the Palace remains the likely winner in the contest for survival.

If that is the case Howard and Wyndham will probably turn the Opera House over to bingo: an application to use it in that way has already been put in by Mecca. It would be a depressing fate for the theatre, yet it would at least keep the building in existence, ready for use in the event of a great theatrical revival.

As can be seen at Liverpool and Birmingham as well as in Manchester, warnings about the impending dissolution of Britain's network of touring theatres have been proved correct, although some theatres will survive.

The efforts of local authorities, the Arts Council and independent groups should save at least one large theatre in each city to add to such buildings as the Leeds Grand, the Nottingham Royal and the Newcastle Royal, which are already in public hands.

The long-term existence of these theatres depends on the availability of enough shows to keep the buildings open and the seats full.

The Arts Council has done much, not least by ensuring that such companies as the Royal Opera House have no excuse to avoid touring, but the future also depends on the unsubsidized companies. Commercial managements will have to display a little more nerve in mounting touring productions if existing provincial theatres are to flourish.

Concluded

'Gold of El Dorado' for display at the RA

By Our Arts Reporter

An important exhibition of pre-Columbian treasures is titled "The Gold of El Dorado" opens at the Royal Academy next November as the main winter exhibition. It will be presented by Benson and Hedges in association with Times Newspapers and the Royal Academy.

The exhibits will be drawn largely from the collection of the Museo del Oro in Bogota, Colombia, which comprises the largest number of pre-Hispanic gold items, survivors of the ravages of conquistador and tomb robber. Some of the finest pieces will appear in London.

The quest for gold was the motivation for much of the Spanish invasion of the Colombian Andes in the sixteenth century.

It will be the most comprehensive exhibition of its kind ever to have been seen outside Colombia: for centuries the artistic and technological merit of the pieces produced by very primitive societies has astonished artists and craftsmen.

Journalists suspended in pay dispute

Thirty-three journalists on the *Kent Messenger* and *Kent Post* were suspended yesterday by South Eastern Newspapers, the Mail-owned company.

They had told the management they would be working in the morning, but in response to sanctions by the National Union of Journalists, which said the newspaper society has refused to allow provincial journalists to negotiate local pay deals.

The two newspapers will continue to be published despite the suspensions. Mr Michael Finley, the group editor-in-chief, said last night.

The journalists were suspended "because they were being called upon to take disruptive action for a total no event," he added. "Our members are unanimously opposed to this action."

"We have been paying it money since January 1, despite Newspaper Society advice not to do that."

Mr David March, father of the *Kent Messenger*, NI Chapel (Office branch), said: "We are anxious to talk to the management. We feel they are being provocative. A work rule is a legitimate form of activity by trade unions."

A union official said: "I am making legal advice about it."

At Haverfordwest, Dyfed, journalists at the *Western Telegraph* started a mandatory chapel meeting demanding reinstatement of a chapel official who had been dismissed.

The union official said, however, that it did not support the private members' Bill being promoted in the House of Commons on child pornography.

The board had been in touch with the Home Office, and he was told that the present law was adequate to deal with the matter, except in one respect. That was in the case of children being photographed in indecent poses without any of indecency taking place.

The Home Secretary was co-sponsoring a bill to close that loophole. In view of the risks children being corrupted by those experiences, he should treat this as a matter of urgency," he said.

The closing of the Bill is due on February 10.

Proposed tripartite Schools Council to have more lay representatives

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

A new tripartite structure for the Schools Council for examinations and curricula was approved by the council's governing body yesterday.

The two representatives of the Association of Principals of Colleges and the single representative of the Association of University Teachers were the only dissenting voices among the 77 members on the governing council.

Formal resolutions to revise the Schools Council's constitution will be put to the next meeting of the governing council on April 20, which will be chaired by Sir Alexander Smith, the present chairman.

Sir Alexander had announced his intention to retire immediately after yesterday's meeting, but Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has not yet found a successor to the unpaid and taxing post. At her request Sir Alexander has agreed to continue as chairman until April 20.

Under the proposals approved yesterday the present teacher-dominated governing body would be replaced by three smaller interdependent committees: convocation, on which the teachers would have two fifths of the 56 places and lay interests, such as parents, trade unions and industry, would have increased representation; the professional committee, on which teachers would have three fifths of the 37 places; and the professional and finance committee, on which teachers would have 11 of the 28 places, the local authorities seven and the Secretary of State for Education and Science eight.

Mr L. A. Layton, of the Association of County Councils, welcomed the proposals, in particular the recognition they give to the increasing interest lay people have in schools.

Mr John Hudson, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, said the proposals were inevitably a compromise, which had emerged after protracted discussions in the review body set up by the council. No party had got exactly what it wanted, but the department had decided to support the proposals and would try to make them work as well as possible.

Professor W. V. Wallace, of the Association of University Teachers, expressed concern that the finance and priorities committee would be the new governing body in the review body, but said that committee would determine, advise and recommend, he said.

The inevitable consequence would be that the outside lay interests would find ample opportunity to speak but virtually none to exercise power.

Sir Alexander, in his opening statement to the governing council, said that those who tried to write convocation off as a mere talking-shop were missing the point. It was part of a structure that provided staff work and was a working body through which issues could be developed and pursued.

A different power lay with each of the three committees. None would be able to ignore the views of others. While it was technically true that the finance and priorities committee could set aside the views and recommendations of convocation, he could not imagine that that would be lightly done.

Some modifications in the design of the advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGR) will be needed for the two nuclear power stations authorized by the Government last week.

The changes to improve safety standards, were outlined yesterday by Sir Ronald Gaudin, Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, when he introduced the first report of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on Atomic Power Stations.

The most important change will allow more space for monitoring and inspecting the concrete pressure vessel and the boilers and gas-cooling circuits it contains, which surround the nuclear core of the reactor.

The alterations are required in the light of experience with AGRs completed at Hinkley B and Hunterston B stations. Experience with the first AGR, yet to be completed at Dungeness B, has highlighted another difficulty when stations take long to build, plant and equipment installed at an early stage deteriorate and need to be refurbished.

None of the design changes is regarded as major work. A similar situation exists over the pressurized water reactor (PWR) which the Central Electricity Generating Board is studying for a possible third station on which construction would start in 1982.

The report published yesterday explains the main sources of corrosion of fuel and of nuts and bolts in a reactor and it identifies the type of welds where cracks occur in boilers and pipework.

Modifications have been made to the methods for shutting down a reactor. The primary method is to insert boron steel control rods into the reactor core.

One inspection showed corrosion in the mechanism of the shutdown method was not impaired, but the mechanism was totally redesigned. Some changes in the design of control systems have followed.

Under a mandatory scheme to report dangerous occurrences or accidents and failures, the report includes two incidents at Algonox stations. They involved releases of carbon dioxide from the reactors in quantities capable of causing serious injury to people.

The report says faults and failures occurred as they would in any complex plant. Reactors suffer occasional unscheduled shut-downs or "trips" from a wide range of causes, such as false faults on protective equipment, operator errors and faults in conventional non-nuclear equipment.

Ten selected incidents are cited. They include equipment failure during the removal of a control rod, which caused a leak of hot gases that damaged associated equipment. A burst pipe in an effluent-treatment building caused a spillage of a few curies of radioactivity. Spontaneous ignition of a uranium fuel element during a laboratory examination for defects caused radioactive damage when it was put in the laboratory fuel pond.

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Minor safety modifications to gas-cooled reactors

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

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Gold for Europe New force in Italian politics is created Catholic revival

Peter Nichols
Jan 31
Mr Andreotti, the Prime Minister, who has now patiently into his second of formal consultations of a new government, is regarded as the most cool-headed of the Christian Democrats. Ironically, it is he just deal with a new vision of the revivalism on the left and are marked, among some fellow-Catholics.

Catholic revival is now to be reckoned with at national level. It is by no simple reinforcement of Christian Democracy which has always been a political party on the right of the Roman Catholic Church. But sooner or later Christian Democrats will deal with its implied majority.

Latest example of this is the rapid collection of signatures to back a referendum measure, success follows, a steadily strong showing of Catholic lists in the schools at the end of last year won a comfortable majority.

Just before the general election, a Catholic group calling itself the "Communion and Liberation" movement based largely in Milan. It has mixed political and religious aims and is criticized for making too little distinction between the two. But no one doubts its effectiveness in gathering votes.

The most impressive performance so far, however, is that of a group calling itself the "Movement for Life". It was intended to provide a framework for various groups inspired by Catholic thinking and intent on preventing the introduction of legalized abortion in Italy. One of its purposes is to favour pre-adoption, or an undertaking to adopt an unborn child unwanted by its mother. Its effort at seeking support for a parliamentary Bill against abortion has been a great success.

The Christian Democrats are treating the movement with a certain diffidence. Signor Andreotti today unexpectedly suspended formal consultations in his search for a new government until a meeting of the national executive of his Christian Democratic Party on Friday.

It is understood that he wants to report the deadlock reached primarily in face of Communist demands.

Sham Greene pleads for ained E German critic

Our Own Correspondent
Appeal signed by five writers and a comedian for the release of Herr Bahro, a principal critic of East German regime, in *The Times* letters page. Herr Bahro was last August.

After originating from the non-owned publishing firm prints Herr Bahro's by Arthur Miller, Grass, Carol Stern and heodorakis.

Years as fears for Herr Bahro are increasing here. The on by the West German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, of a manifesto drawn up by a group German dissidents is to have led to greater out of known and susritics inside East Gerigh it is thought unat Herr Bahro was in the manifesto, it any of his ideas and ought to be an inspirer critics. East German als who have come the West have ex-fears that his captors may set out to wreck his physical or mental health, possibly with some kind of brainwashing techniques.

Herr Bahro knew what he was risking when he published his book, *Die Alternative zur Kritik des real Existenz Sozialismus*, a challenge to the East German system, under his own name.

The day after the first excerpt was published, accompanied by an interview with Herr Bahro in *Der Spiegel*, he was arrested. He has not been brought to trial—the reason given for his arrest was "suspected espionage"—and it is not known where he is held.

Herr Bahro, aged 41, is a convicted Communist and a product of East German society. For 10 years, however, he spent his free time analysing East German society as experienced by millions of citizens, and comparing it to the principles it was supposedly based.

He came to the conclusion that he must aim, through his book, for a "Communist alternative to the political and bureaucratic dictatorship which holds our society's work and life processes in fetters".

Letters, page 15

million visit Pompidou centre

Murray
31
ix million visitors are enough of success. all the statistics that en compiled to celebrate first birthday Georges Pompidou arts n Paris, that of the ber of visitors is the king and the most im-

ports have worn out their feet 3,000 refer-have been thumbed s; 1,700 long-playing have been ground to y the crowds. Every French and foreign rs are reduced to the library. There is queue for everything have to be l every Tuesday, it closes, to keep it.

cally there can be no at the centre has suc-eyond the dreams of President Pompidou, ea it was to create a al palace in the mid-ria which would help ack for the city the n of being the West-ld's chief artistic in-

ing unusual architect- slowly becoming by Parisians, although ight of all those red, ue, orange and silver sic escalator tunnels ashamed the visitors not fail to shock the ho has just strolled d from Notre Dame. stant success of the s caused problems for s, however. Many

artists also feel it has done nothing to inspire them.

It is all very well, the French art world argues, to spend a seventh of the national cultural budget on the one centre, but the rest of it is the three Concordes that could be built for the money—but what is it actually producing in terms of greater cultural awareness? To fulfil President Pompidou's aims the centre should provide facilities for artists to research, study and create.

The most successful part of the centre is the library, which attracts more than half of the average daily attendance of 22,000 visitors. Yet its success is in many ways explained by the fact that Paris is not equipped with public lending libraries and the one in the centre is therefore fulfilling a need not directly associated with artistic creation.

Schoolchildren and students make up 62 per cent of those who use the library and teachers a further 9 per cent. The argument is that these two million library users a year would just as happily go somewhere else if the opportunity was there.

The real heart of the centre is the Museum of Modern Art. This sets out the history of art development since 1905, with a rich and important collection. About 150,000 people have visited it since the collection was moved here from its old home on the Quai de Tokyo, which is about five times as many as used to see it there.

The art critics say that the

European space team visits Britain

By Our Science Editor
The four scientists from whom West Europe's first man in space will be chosen began a visit yesterday to some of the laboratories in Britain preparing equipment for experiments on manned and unmanned spacecraft. All passed the fitness test last week at the medical centre of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in Houston, Texas.

One of the four will be chosen as a member of a new generation of scientific astronauts who will work with United States astronauts in the first space laboratory mission in 1980. They will prepare and handle the instruments used in orbiting laboratories.

The European candidates, all of whom took physics as their



The first West European in space will be one of these scientists visiting a laboratory in Surrey yesterday. They are, left to right: Dr Claude Nicollier, of Switzerland; Dr Franco Malerba, of Italy; Dr Ulf Merbold, of West Germany; and Dr Wubbo Ockels, of The Netherlands.

first degrees, are Dr Franco Malerba, aged 31, of Italy, an engineer in the computer development field; Dr Ulf Merbold, aged 36, of West Germany, working at the Max Planck research institute in Stuttgart; Dr Claude Nicollier, aged 33, of Switzerland, a visiting astronomer to the European Space Research and Technology Centre at Noordwijk, The Netherlands, and also a pilot; and Dr Wubbo Ockels, aged 31, of The Netherlands, who is engaged in research and teaches at Groningen University.

Defence cuts limit new gun's scope

From Peter Hennessy
Narvik, Jan 31
The new, light 105mm gun, mainstay artillery support for 45 Commando Group on Nato's northern flank in Norway, is failing to live up to hopes, because of the shortcomings of supporting equipment.

The heavy-lift Puma helicopter, which should have carried the weapon, has not gone into service with the Royal Navy as planned because of defence cuts. The gun is too heavy to be transported by the ageing Wessex helicopter, on which the Royal Marines must now rely.

Operations in the Narvik area this week have brought out this shortcoming, despite assurances from the Government that expenditure cuts would affect the "tail" but not the "teeth of Britain's defence capacity."

The 105mm gun has several advantages over the pack howitzer, the weapon it replaced. Its range, for example, is

17,000 metres compared with 10,000 metres. But the howitzer could be dismantled in three sections and carried in a Wessex.

The new gun weighs 4,200lb, 1,400lb more than the howitzer. It can be towed along level ground by the Volvo BV 207 Bandwagon snow vehicle but not up steep inclines.

Lack of funds requires the gun to be moved on wooden skids that frequently break, rather than on tracks.

British forces are particularly resentful of the deficiencies in view of the overwhelming artillery superiority enjoyed by the Warsaw Pact forces.

On the credit side, however, the Norwegian Government is to allow the Marines to store vehicles, equipment and ammunition on their territory all year round.

Long-standing decision to prohibit the stationing of foreign troops on Norwegian soil permanently in peacetime still applies.

Basque fighters put demands

Bilbao, Jan 31—The military branch of the Basque separatist organization ETA has informed the Spanish Government of the conditions under which it would halt armed violence.

The conditions, communicated to the Government this morning, included a demand for expulsion of all members of the Spanish Civil Guard, armed police and security police from Basque territory. Army troops stationed there must be under control of an autonomous Basque government.

ETA demanded the replacement of national police with a citizen's police force.

The separatists also wanted a statute of autonomy recognizing Basque "national sovereignty" giving priority to the Basque language over Spanish, and granting unconditional amnesty and legalization of all political parties.

Deadlock in EEC fish dispute

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Jan 31
Britain was tonight at loggerheads with its EEC partners in the dispute over the share-out of the Community's fish resources.

Mr Silkin, British Minister of Agriculture, who has been demanding special rights for British fishermen in a 50-mile coastal belt, told his counterparts at a meeting in Brussels that the differences were so great that it would be better to postpone attempts to reach agreement for two months.

The other eight EEC members, who agreed in Berlin last weekend on a system of supervised limitation of fishing, were threatening to go ahead with their scheme without Britain. This would force the British to proclaim a national fishing zone in defiance of the rest of the Community.

Kidnapped baron was not taken far, police believe

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 31
The police in Paris are now firmly convinced that Baron Edouard-Jean Empain is still being held in the city by his kidnappers. They believe the tight cordon thrown across the main exit routes probably thwarted the gang's plan to take him to some pre-arranged hiding place.

He is being kept, they think, in an improvised prison within a quarter of an hour's drive of the place where he was kidnapped near Etoile.

That is why the continuing controls and searches by the police are being concentrated on the western end of the city and its adjacent suburbs. Nearly 14,000 men are involved in the operation. They are apparently working to a systematic plan devised after

previous kidnappings in Paris. It is aimed at boxing in the gang and then relentlessly searching them out.

The success of the police "containment" operation is increasing fears for the baron's safety. According to unofficial sources, one of the conditions laid down by the gang for the release of the baron is that the police cordon should be lifted.

There are no signs that this is to happen.

The Ministry of the Interior, which is charged with supplying information to the press about the kidnapping, has now denied formally nearly every scrap of information that has been gleaned over the past week, including the sending of the finger tip and of a colour Polaroid picture of the baron showing his left hand bandaged.

Greek conservatory closes

From Our Own Correspondent
Athens, Jan 31
The Odeon, the musical academy of Athens, is closing its doors today. The conservatory, which was founded in 1913, has been closed since the death of its director, Maria Callas, the operatic singer, Nikos Skalkottas, the composer, and Gina Babinova, the pianist.

A brief announcement posted today at the door of its new building in central Athens, read: "The Odeon of Athens announces that its operations, uninterrupted for 107 years, will be suspended from February 1 for financial reasons."

Mr Menelaos Pallandios, the director-general, said today: "It is very simple: the state subsidy we receive covers a tenth of the cost of operating a conservatory with 1,000 students

The state subsidy has stood at £36,000 a year for the past 18 years. The conservatory earns another £70,000 from tuition fees. According to the director, it needs £386,000 a year to operate.

We asked the ministry of culture to help but there were no funds available," Mr Pallandios said.

The Odeon recently moved to a new, still unfinished marble building near the area where it is planned to build the cultural centre of Athens. The building has cost £2.6m so far, of which over £2m was a government grant.

Thirty years ago the Odeon lost a fortune because money left by private donors was held in Greek securities, from before the Second World War.

Five sent to jail for plot to kidnap minister

Stockholm, Jan 31—Fourteen young Swedes were sentenced today for their part in a plot to kidnap a former Cabinet minister. Five received jail sentences, varying from four years to life, and three were given suspended sentences or were fined. Two others were acquitted.

The defendants were accused of planning to kidnap Mrs Anna-Greta Leijon, the minister responsible for the deportation of terrorists who set fire to the West German Embassy in Stockholm in April, 1975.

The intention was to hold Mrs Leijon hostage for a ransom of \$1m (£300,000) and force the release of Baader-Meinhof terrorists from West German jails. Several foreigners connected with the case were deported.

Chemical war pact delayed

Geneva, Jan 31—The issue of how to check the destruction of existing chemical weapons stockpiles has still not been resolved in the American-Soviet negotiations here on an agreed set of principles to form the basis of a treaty outlawing such weapons. The information emerged today at the beginning of the 30-nation disarmament conference's spring session.

Moscow: The Soviet Union has issued a strong denial of a Brussels report that its military scientists were developing new strains of killer viruses.

M Barre stealing show from M Chirac

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 31
The way having been pointed by President Giscard d'Estaing last Friday, M Raymond Barre has begun to muster the forces of the Government majority, and to launch preliminary skirmishes against the Opposition.

If he continues on present form, this Prime Minister, who has been criticized for being insufficiently "political", will soon be accused of being too much so, especially for the taste of the Gaullist Rassemblement.

In his persistent, unhurried manner, he is establishing himself in the role of leader of the majority, with the blessing of the President and stealing the show from M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader.

M Barre has been helped by the growing impatience of the man in the street with the internal squabbles of the majority parties, the improvement in economic trends and the reassuring image he has succeeded in creating for himself in the provinces.

On Sunday, speaking to the Carrefour Social Démocrate, a grouping of mildly progressive members of the non-Gaullist parties of the Government majority, he had denied the socialists the "monopoly of socialism". He reverted to the theme again today in a television interview.

In answer to the question "Are you a Socialist?" M Barre said: "I respect French Socialists when they are Socialists from conviction, and not from ambition."

He described M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, as "the prince of equivocation". Now at last, M Barre said, M Mitterrand had torn off the mask and made an open bid for the presidency by stating at a public meeting last night that a conflict between the President and a left-wing parliamentary majority was inevitable sooner or later.

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AIR CANADA

OVERSEAS

Bishop Muzorewa calls off boycott of internal negotiations but constitutional differences remain

From Frederick Cleary
Saisbury, Jan 31

Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rhodesian Government appear to have resolved their differences which led to the African nationalist leader walking out of the internal settlement talks last Friday.

The Bishop will therefore rejoin the negotiations with government representatives and delegations from two other African organizations tomorrow.

He agreed to resume talking after a private meeting this morning between Mr James Chikema, vice-president of his United African National Council, and Mr David Smith, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, who was alleged to have made an insulting remark which led to the walkout.

Mr David Mukome, the UANC publicity secretary, said the meeting with Mr David Smith had been very encouraging. Differences over the offensive language had been satisfactorily resolved.

Constitutional differences between the UANC and the Government remain, however. The Government and the Smith and Zuppo groups insist that the bishop agreed to 28 seats in a future parliament being reserved for whites elected on separate voting rolls. The bishop says he agreed only to 20 seats under this form of election.

Sources close to the talks now believe the delegation heads and their immediate advisers may spend tomorrow trying to close the gap. If the bishop can be persuaded to accept the 28 figure, a compromise can be reached, the negotiations will be back to where they were last Thursday when an internal agreement was close to being signed.

Legal advisers have been at recent talks. This indicates that there is optimism that the matter of parliamentary representation can be resolved fairly quickly. The next issue, according to sources, is the functions of the interim government which would be set up as part of the agreement.

One view is that all four delegation leaders—Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, Bishop Muzorewa, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole and Senator Chief Jeremiah Chirau—will serve as equals on a Council of State, but during the transitional period to a new constitution and a general election, Mr Smith will still run the country through his existing Cabinet.

The nationalist leaders will be mainly concerned with the drafting of the new constitution from executive positions, that is with the full weight of governmental machinery behind them. The composition of the armed forces—still very much a delicate issue—would presumably be resolved in this fashion.

Sources close to the negotiations believe that once the parliamentary issue is decided it will take two or three further meetings of heads of delegations to reach final agreement on the exact functions of the interim government and its members.

The *Zimbabwe Times*, a daily newspaper aimed mainly at black readers, today published what it said was the full text of the agreement which the four leaders were to have signed if Bishop Muzorewa had not walked out. The document reads:

1. (a). There will be a Legislative Assembly consisting of 100 members, who will be elected by voters on a common roll, with all citizens of 18 years and over being eligible for registration as voters. (b). The Assembly will be elected by black voters who are enrolled on the common roll.

(c). Twenty-eight of the seats in the Assembly will be reserved for white (ie. Europeans as defined in the 1969 constitution) who will be elected by white voters who are enrolled on the common roll.

(d). The specially reserved seats shall be retained for a period of at least 10 years, after which time, which ever is the longer, shall be reviewed at the expiration of that period, at which time the chairman of which shall be a judge of the High Court, to undertake this review.

If that commission recommends that the arrangements regarding such specially reserved seats should be changed, an amendment to the constitution to effect such change may be made by a Bill which receives the affirmative votes of not less than 51 members.

2. There will be a justiciable declaration of rights which will protect the rights and freedoms of individuals and, inter alia, will provide for protection from deprivation of property unless adequate compensation is paid promptly, and for protection of pension rights of persons who are members of pension funds.

3. The independence and qualifications of the judiciary will be entrenched and judges will have security of tenure. There will be an independent Public Service Board, the members of which will have security of tenure, which will be responsible for appointments to, promotions in, and discharges from, the public service.

4. The public service, police force, defence force and prison service will be maintained in a high state of efficiency and free from political interference.

5. Pensions which are payable from the consolidated revenue fund will be guaranteed and charges on the consolidated revenue fund will be remittable outside the country.

6. Citizens who at present are entitled to dual citizenship will not be deprived of their present entitlement.

7. The above mentioned provisions will be set out and provided for in the constitution and will be regarded as specially entrenched provisions which may only be amended by a Bill which receives the affirmative votes of not less than 75 members.

Sources at the talks said the *Zimbabwe Times* version of the agreement contained three figures which had been left blank in the actual document. The figure of 28 as the blocking parliamentary quota was wrong, they said. It had been agreed in principle that legislation affecting entrenched provisions could be passed only with the support of the 72 black seats plus at least six of the white seats.

The sources said the figures of eight, two and two mentioned in section 1(d) had also been inserted in the *Zimbabwe Times* version when the actual agreed period for the white safeguards was 10 years or two parliaments, whichever is the longer.

Diary, page 14



President Brezhnev receiving Mr Jaroszewicz, the Polish Prime Minister at the Kremlin

Brezhnev appearance in Kremlin

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Jan 31

President Brezhnev has re-emerged in public after a long and troublesome bout of what was officially described as influenza. Today he met Mr Piotr Jaroszewicz, the Polish Prime Minister.

At their meeting in the Kremlin, shown tonight on Soviet television, the Soviet leader, who is 71, looked cheerful, a little tired perhaps, but in substantially better health than at his last televised public appearance on January 3.

On that occasion, while presenting a medal to Mr Mikhail Suslov, the veteran party ideologue, Mr Brezhnev looked drawn and puffy. Soon after that he postponed his visit to West Germany saying that his doctors had ordered him to rest.

This aroused renewed rumours about his health. He was unable to receive President Boumedienne of Algeria, in a visit to Moscow, and had not otherwise appeared in public since December 8.

At today's meeting Mr Brezhnev was accompanied by Mr Alexei Kosygin, the Prime Minister. Tass said that Soviet-Polish cooperation was discussed in a "warm and friendly atmosphere". Particular attention was paid to economic ties between the two countries, and Mr Jaroszewicz reported the results of measures approved recently by the Polish Communist Party to promote social and economic development.

Mr Brezhnev, for his part, reiterated that the main thrust of the Soviet Union's current five-year plan, was to raise the efficiency of production. Poland's economy is in difficulties at the moment. As in the past this has confronted the political leadership with some hard and unpopular choices. Earlier this month the Polish Government warned the public that a period of austerity ahead was inevitable.

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Mr Sadat adamant on Palestinian rights

From David Watts
Cairo, Jan 31

President Sadat today reaffirmed Egypt's determination that there can be no compromise on the principle of self-determination for the Palestinians. Speaking at his villa north of Cairo, he said: "We must find a way for this reality... or everything will collapse."

His remarks came after reports from Israel yesterday that there had been agreement between Israel and the United States on the wording of a compromise formula on the crucial Palestinian question. It spoke of the Palestinian issue in terms of a good deal less specific than will be required by the Egyptian side, however.

Mr Sadat was again quite unequivocal in his insistence that one of the seven principles that the two sides have been trying to hammer out with American mediation must be the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

His remarks confirmed the impression given by Egyptian officials over the past few days that the two sides are still as far apart as ever on the basic issues that have divided them from the first.

The President confirmed that the Palestinian problem remains the main one. He does not see the Israeli settlements in northern Sinai as an insoluble problem. He is also optimistic about the chances of agreeing on the withdrawal from Sinai that is being dealt with in the military committee talks. They were resuming today after the arrival of Mr Ezer Weizman, the Israeli Defence Minister.

The discussions are the first direct contacts between the two sides since Mr Sadat withdrew his delegation from the political talks in Jerusalem on January 18.

It became apparent today that the ideas on a set of principles governing the political talks brought from Israel by Mr Alfred Atherton, a United States Assistant Secretary of State, have not impressed the Egyptians.

As Mr Sadat spoke, Mr Atherton was engaged in two hours of discussions with Mr Muhammad Kamel, the Foreign Minister. From the moment of his arrival last night it has been emphasized that the visit is an informal one and the talks exploratory. The atmosphere so far has been correct rather than warm.

Mr Atherton indicated that he was not bringing a set of proposals from Jerusalem. American sources said his ideas were limited to clarifications

and modifications of the outline that Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, brought earlier the month.

On the Palestinian issue Foreign Ministry spokesmen said today: "The American formula is not bad, but it depends on the explanation and interpretation that goes with it. We do not want something that later can be interpreted something else. It has to be clear from the first."

"Palestinian self-determination means for us that real self-determination has to be accepted in that spirit by all parties. We are getting to it now, now when we can afford vagueness."

Michael Kanpe writes from Jerusalem: Three Jewish settlements recently set up on the West Bank of the Jordan have brought to close the Israeli Government's controversial programme for establishing settlements in occupied Arab territory.

The last three settlements bring the total number of occupied territories to 56 (on the West Bank and 17 Sinai), according to sources; and to 72 (55 on the West Bank and 17 in Sinai) according to others. The discrepancy results from a method of counting some neighbouring settlements as semi-occupied.

The last three settlements are situated round Nablus, the best town on the West Bank, and are occupied by special Army units that combine military and agricultural duties. Civilians are expected to be moved into the settlements within a month.

The Gush Etzion (Ezi) settlement, a group of 100 Jewish families, is extending Jewish settlement throughout the West Bank. It has 30 newly arrived Russian immigrant families waiting to go to one of its settlements.

Kuwait: Vice-President Hos Mubarak, of Egypt, said a long-term peace pact with Israel would be a "very difficult and some enemy. Should we fail to resort to other means, it is a matter of life or death."

On a tour to urge Arab states to support President Sadat's peace moves, he said: "We know we are dealing with a very difficult and some enemy. Should we fail to resort to other means, it is a matter of life or death."

He repeated, "Egypt pledges, however, to follow the path of peace to the end, as long as it is clear, if Israelis want peace, page 15

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Attempt to free Tunis union leader

From Michael Coleman
Tunis, Jan 31

In an attempt to persuade the Tunisian Government to free Mr Habib Achour, the trade union leader it blames for last week's general strike and rioting, Mr John Vanderveken, assistant secretary-general of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, saw Mr Hedi Nouira, the Prime Minister, here this evening.

"We are very much concerned about Mr Achour's arrest", Mr Vanderveken said. "He is vice-president of the confederation and a member of its executive board. I am trying to establish the facts and see what to do to seek his release and that of the other trade union leaders."

He said that confusing figures were being given by the authorities about the number of union leaders held. In an address to the National Assembly this morning, Mr Nouira said the Government had declared the state of emergency and brought troops into the cities and industrial plants because "we do not want Tunisia to become another Lebanon".

Tunis, Jan 31.—Seventy people have been imprisoned in the past three days for offences during the rioting. Mostly youths, they received jail terms ranging from three months to two years on charges such as gathering in the street, insulting members of the Government, inciting people to join the general strike, attacking policemen or police stations, and looting—Agence France-Press.

Our Washington correspondent writes: Mr George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labour-Council of Industrial Organizations, has intervened in the troubles in Tunisia, but is not going there himself.

He is asking President Carter to inform the Tunisian Government of the AFL-CIO's "abhorrence of the action taken so far", according to a spokesman here.

Mr Carter accused of 'pro-Somalia plot'

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Jan 31

The bitter attack on President Carter by Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam, the Ethiopian leader, in a broadcast affirming Ethiopia's determination to repel the Somali invasion, is the strongest Ethiopian criticism of American policies in the Horn of Africa since the revolution which overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974.

In his broadcast from Addis Ababa last night, Colonel Mengistu accused the United States, and specifically President Carter, of conspiring to build an "international plot" to build up Somalia and to support the Somali invasion of Ethiopia.

He alleged that Iran had undertaken to intervene militarily, moving troops to Somalia, through Oman, at the provision of arms to Somalia proved insufficient to sustain the invasion of Ethiopia.

Other Arab states—including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt and Jordan—and West Germany were involved in the "plot", Colonel Mengistu said, which had been discussed at the recent meeting in Washington of representatives of the United States, Britain, West Germany, France and Italy.

Colonel Mengistu said Ethiopia would not negotiate with Somalia, which had invaded and captured Ethiopian territory, but would drive the invaders out. He made no reference to Soviet or Cuban assistance to Ethiopia.

W German gun chosen

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Jan 31

The Pentagon announced today that it had decided to choose the West German Götter 120mm gun for its new XM1 tank. The British rifled 120mm gun is thus rejected, so, in the long run, is the American 105mm gun.

Katie Stewart Scallops and mussels

**Basic recipe:
One for the
pot**

Serves 4-6
 1 piece rolled beef brisket,
 about 2lb;
 Seasoned flour;
 1oz white vegetable fat or
 dripping;
 Salt and freshly milled pepper;

There are dozens of ways of preparing mussels, that don't take too long to cook; the part that does need time and care is the cleaning. When mussels are brought home from the beach, they must be thoroughly cleaned at once; after this they can be soaked in a bucket of cold salted water until ready to cook. Remove any gaping or broken mussels, then meticulously clean the inside of each, with a remainder with a small sharp knife, removing anything that adheres to the shell and pulling away the beard too. Wash mussels in several changes of cold water until the water remains clear and the sand has settled and then leak the water

Pink sticks of forced rhubarb appear early in the year—to keep cooked pieces in perfect shape try baking them in a covered dish allowing 5 oz granulated sugar and 1 table-

Serves 4

8 oz long grain rice ;
4 bacon rashers ;
1 1/2 oz butter ;
2 medium onion ;
1 pint boiling chicken stock—
check flavour and add a
chicken stock cube if
necessary ;
1 lb mushrooms ;
2 oz or grated cheddar cheese ;
4 oz butter.

Sometimes the method of cooking is a little more elaborate. The saucepan is well buttered and sprinkled with chopped shallot, and then a little wine poured in before the mussels are put to cook. You

fully opened. Lift out the mussels, and reserve the cooking liquid. When cool enough to handle, lift the mussels from the liquid and drain them in a colander. Strain the cooking liquid and measure out 1/4 cup for making the sauce. Melt 1/2 pint of the butter in a saucepan. Add the curry powder. Dry gently for a few minutes to draw the flavour, then stir in the flour and cook for a moment. Gradually stir in the reserved cooking liquid, stirring to get a smooth sauce. Bring to a simmer and check seasoning—add freshly milled pepper and salt if necessary. Draw off the heat and stir in the reserved cream. Pour this sauce over the mussels to fill ramekin dishes. When ready to serve, pour a little of the remaining cream over the mussels and dot with butter. Place dishes on a baking tray under the top of a moderate oven (350 deg F or gas no 4) and heat through for about 15 minutes or until bubbling hot. Serve brown slightly before serving.

And Weiner, Sec. 808, § 17 of the Antitrust Act, 1950, no portion of the Arbitration Act (Northern Ireland), 1937, shall apply to an arbitration agreement to which this section applies."

Mr. J. M. Webster, QC, and Mr. Gavin Lightham for Lurgi and the pipeline company; Mr. Peter Webster, QC, and Mr. Gordon Langley for Shell; Mr. G. B. H. Dillon, QC, Mr. Christopher Clarke and Mr. Jonathan Sumption for BP

who contended that the plaintiffs' conduct amounted to breach of contractual obligations under the Shippers Agreement and also to the tort of conspiracy. The plaintiffs claimed injunctions, to restrain the defendants from refusing to supply oil to the plaintiffs and to act in breach of the Shippers Agreement, and also damages for breach of contract, and interference with con-

ached in the two sets of findings. That would be unfortunate, but such a duplication of proceedings and the consequent of inconsistent findings were factors which could be said to render the arbitration proceedings sterile.

The result his Lordship was by the Arbitration Act at the instance of Shell and stay all proceedings in the as between Lounho and the

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10-5. Sun. 2-6.

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and Old Maps of England
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22-24 Feb. 20. Cork
1. London. W.1. Mon.-Fri.
20. Sat. 10-1.

AL ACADEMY OF ARTS
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Paint. Open Nov. Adm. 1s.
WINDSOR 10. S. 10-5. Sun. 2-6.
Until 19th Feb. Adm. 1s. 6d. 10-5. Sun. 2-6.

WINNIE GALLERY, Kensington
W. J. Winnie, Councilman, JACK
77, South 14 Feb. Daily 10-5.
Free.

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Ken. THE SCOLE POTTERIES.
4 April. REVISED!
2 April. Adm. free. 5-9
M. Daily 12 Feb. Adults 50p.
Free. 10-4 Sun. 10-4 Sun.
8-50. Closed Friday.

ring from 1 orange and bake for 40 minutes in a moderate oven (350 deg F or gas No 4). You will have whole pieces floating in an orange-flavoured syrup. Serve very cold for the freshest taste.

simmer (add a pinch of tumeric at this stage if you like to make the rice golden. Reduce the heat to a gentle simmer and cover the pan with the lid. Cook without lifting the lid for 20-30 minutes or until the rice is tender and all the liquid absorbed.

Meanwhile wipe the mushrooms and cut in slices. Place in a small saucpan with a knob of butter, just a little water and

serving dish and sprinkle with the rest of the grated cheese, which will melt deliciously over the top. Serve just as it is—preferably with a crisp salad.

Repeat the rolling and folding twice more. Finally rest the dough again in the refrigerator for 10 minutes; it is then ready to use. Cut the dough in half and keep one half refrigerated (in a warm kitchen temperature it will start to prove too soon).

finished pastries). Flavour the almond paste with a little almond essence. Roll out half the dough to rectangle 8 inches by 16 inches and cut into 4-inch squares. Trim edges straight. Put a little almond paste in the centre of each

soft and light. Roll the dough to a rectangle 12 inches by 8 inches. Brush narrow borders with egg, spread the dough with the spiced butter and sprinkle with 1 oz sultanas. Roll up from the short side to make a fat roll. Cut into 8 slices, place cut side down on a greased baking tray and flatten slightly. Brush with egg.

To bake the pastries
Leave the pastries to prove on a kitchen table until ruffed.

the centre of the windmills, and brush the spiced whorls with a little glace icing made by mixing 2 oz icing sugar with 1 teaspoon of water.

to two year imprisonment. They appeared on a point of view which charged that the court which charged them and others who had not been convicted of conspiracy conspired to produce the offense alleged that they had conspired together and others to produce a controlled drug of Class A, namely, cocaine.

In January 1975, the police searched Alford's home and to the fact that he had been

guilty of criminal conspiracy. That proposition represented an important factor in the case of Lord Reid was discussing in *Haughton's* case. He discussed in that case the proposition that a mistaken belief as to what the facts were. Mr. Dr. Gano's proposition was that the mistake belief that facts did exist was an unlawful act. In the mistaken belief that facts did exist

it was the factor of agreement which distinguished attempts to produce a controlled drug of Class A from the attempt to produce a controlled drug of Class B. The factor of agreement was the factor which distinguished attempts to produce a controlled drug of Class A from the attempt to produce a controlled drug of Class B. The factor of agreement was the factor which distinguished attempts to produce a controlled drug of Class A from the attempt to produce a controlled drug of Class B.

goods could have been avoided if a conspiracy to handle had been charged.

Mr Tudor Price, for the Crown, put forward a simple proposition. He submitted that as an unlawful conspiracy consisted in an agreement between two or more persons to effect a purpose which the law regarded as unlawful, all that

had agreed to producing cocaine ships' done was to produce cocaine ships. He disagreed with the proposition that the first step was to produce cocaine ships for the law for him, might have beyond the evidence phrase "elaborate

Rafting on profit basis stays

gave some support to the Crown. Mr Du Cann's first submission could be described as: a proferitor into the law of conspiracy, and reasoning which led the House of Lords to decide that a series of acts done with intent to commit a specified offence which could

substance. By the Act a pro-
reference was
controlled drug
is by manufac-
or any other
sents intended to
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phuric acid. The
be by a chemical
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to amounted to
s. Their Lord-
What the Judge
constitute a sta-
tute was a matter
not the jury. He
concludes somewhat
ly by using the
e scientific pro-
an invariable

On an appeal
Co Ltd. occu-
petantment
of Harwich, from
the House of Lords
(see *Roche and
Gard* (The Times,
1937) 75 LGR
1458), the Court
dismissed their
appeal, and ordered
them an order
during the interim.

LOCKPORT ANTIQUARIAN GALLERY, Lombard
St., Lockport, N.Y. 14094. **JACK
SMITH**, paintings and bronzes. **W.
C. Smith**, bronzes. **Unit 19 Feb. Daily 10-5.**

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM,
Suk. Ken. The **SCOTT POTTERIES**,
Unit 2, 7 April. **RAYMOND POTTER**,
Unit 13, 12 April. **RAY**
WHITMAN, Unit 13, 12 April. **SAV**
children free. **WATSON**, 10-4-50, **SUN.**
1-30-8-50. **Closed Fridays, Sun.**

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ORT

skating

Cousins bothered by rockers but rights back strongly with loops

John Hennessy (bourgeois, Jan 31), chance that Robin Cousins, British champion, may have of winning the European championship probably secured within the first few of his challenge here. He laid down a snappy figure and paid the penalty for a minor error, but his figure was not perfect. He was ranked 2.9 from a total of 3.5 from the judges. Mrs. Greenbridge, however, was not so kind. She placed him at the third position, with his seventh place at the corresponding stage last year.

Under the figures is the Russian (Soviet Union), led by Jan Hoffmann (East Germany). He was the winner in Helsinki, with a second, but the Russian did not reverse the place in the world championships. He was a month or so later, and he was not so good. He was ranked 2.9 from a total of 3.5 from the judges. Mrs. Greenbridge, however, was not so kind. She placed him at the third position, with his seventh place at the corresponding stage last year.

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A good head for figures: Kovalev, of the Soviet Union, on his way to taking the lead in the compulsory section.

to music from West Side Story that should dispel the complaint that they lean too much towards pair skating.

The British couple's task, rather, is to hold off the second Russian couple, Natalia Linitskaya and Gennadi Karponosov, who were third last year in both European and world championships. The British couple, led by Jan Hoffmann (East Germany), was the winner in Helsinki, with a second, but the Russian did not reverse the place in the world championships. He was a month or so later, and he was not so good. He was ranked 2.9 from a total of 3.5 from the judges. Mrs. Greenbridge, however, was not so kind. She placed him at the third position, with his seventh place at the corresponding stage last year.

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Badminton

England take steps for game to go open

By Richard Streeton

England, who gave badminton to the world, have again taken the initiative and given other countries a strong lead in the game. The British Badminton Association is making steps for badminton to go open. In the long term it should bring to an end the recent period of breakdowns by leading players and an unsatisfactory growth in hidden professionalism.

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Racing

Ballyfin Lake's talents are hidden from all but his beaten rivals

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

The weather played an unkind trick on those of us who went to Chesham yesterday primarily to watch the Persian War Novice Hurdle. This race is named after the last horse to win the Champion Hurdle three times, who was trained only a stone's throw away from the Chesham Hotel.

While the horses paraded in the paddock, fog or low cloud, enveloped the course, so that we could not see the race. The time that the race started was five minutes after the race was over. The visibility was perfect again, but the horses had been done and we had been denied a good look at the most valuable race of the day.

Exploration was in the lead, followed by Silver Buck and Silverman, but when they came into sight again, with only one hurdle left to jump it was Ballyfin Lake who was in complete command. Apparently John Frankcombe took up the running on Fred Winter's improved seven-year-old turning into the straight. From the moment he did so, the final result was never in any doubt, at least in the minds of those jockeys riding in the race, because they did not see him.

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David Jack was so closely related to the good sport, who carried his dark blue and yellow colours to victory in the Black and White Whisky Told Cup at Ascot in 1971. Colonel Wetherley paid only 700 guineas for the gelding when he was sold at Ascot and when she was sold at Ascot to David Jack, so Jack Anthony, the result of that mating, looks a rather cheap horse now. This was his third success of the season.

The winner of the trophy was Lorraine, whose trainer, Tim Smith II, coughed 26 times after the race. He said that Royal Marston's Steeplechase at Doncaster, which he gave me, that he feels that his horse may well have broken a blood vessel internally yet again. If that was the case, it will have been the fourth year in succession that Royal Marston has done that at this time of the season. There had to be some explanation why he dropped out of contention so suddenly because he was going so well running into the straight and did not seem to be in any danger of being overtaken.

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O'Toole trip could be a hint in itself

By Michael Seely

Mac's Chariot over from Kilgore to run in the £4,000 Scilly Isles Novices Steeplechase at Sandown Park on Saturday. Last March Mac's Chariot beat French Hollow in the Lloyd's Bank Champion Novice Hurdle at the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham. Sired by a sprinter, Will Somers, he is also the father of that remarkable sprinter, O'Toole, who has beaten his brother, O'Swaldston, and Somy Somers, the seven-year-old who has taken well to fences, having already won novice events at Naas and Leopardstown.

It now costs £700 to fly a horse over from Ireland so that flag-bearer O'Toole must be pretty certain of success on Saturday. The Queen Mother's 1975 Schweppes Gold Trophy winner, Tannum, may make his first appearance over fences, but True Wish appears to be the most formidable of Mac's Chariot's 10 opponents declared at the day stage yesterday. However, Tony Dickinson's six-year-old is more likely to run in the £10,000 Staines Ginger Wine Silver Trophy earlier in the afternoon.

There are 10 acceptors for this ever competitive two and a half mile handicap. Leadbooks have installed Artifice as their favourite at 11.4. They then go 4.1, True Wish and Early Spring and offer 1.1. The other four are all at 1.1. Others declared include Tip the Wink, Young Arthur and Tim Forster's Colonel Mustard, who showed all the courage in the world when he beat the best of the boys on this circuit in December. Artifice is 3lb better in at the weights with Early Spring for a three-length win at the same place. Circle Cement Handicap at Ascot, Othman's seven-year-old would be a serious contender if he had jumped better than he has. He thought Philip Hobbs made a tactical error in not tackling Early Spring at the fourth fence from the start. He was going the best of the field. Over half a mile further Artifice could reverse the placings on Saturday.

The four to one against True Wish looks a long way off. His front-running tactics and superior jumping will be seen to great advantage on Sandown's tricky circuit. The odds are 11 to 1. True Wish is a 7lb better animal on a sound surface. And although the ground rarely rides heavy on this circuit, it is not at all likely that he will be at the front. The weather forecast is not propitious. But on balance it might be a chance worth taking.

Even if Sea Pigeon and Decent Light in the O'Leary Hurdle, Mr John Joel's champion Hurdle candidate could still be tested to the full in this valuable conditions race. A Novice Handicap at Kempton. And success here would mean no penalty for the Hurdle Trophy. Beacon Light should be capable of conceding 12lb to Nougat, but Othman's eight-year-old should test him to the full. Other interesting acceptors are Fred Rimell's novice, Norfolk Air, Regent's Garden and Winter Melody.

The weather stopped the racing at Nottingham yesterday. The Newcastle today became the twelfth weather victim of the season. The forecast is for a head, but prospects are good for Windsor today and tomorrow's cards at Wincanton and Towcester.

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ain have a nce ven score

By Michael Phillips

England's Correspondent Britain play New Zealand today in the first of three matches in a series of three matches sponsored by Procter. The series will be at Wembley, Warrington and Edgbaston on 20, 21 and 22 February. The series will be at Wembley, Warrington and Edgbaston on 20, 21 and 22 February. The series will be at Wembley, Warrington and Edgbaston on 20, 21 and 22 February.

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Golf

Increased levy could give LGU healthy surplus

By Lewine Mar

The Ladies Golf Union decided at their annual general meeting, at the Rensfield St Stephens Church Centre, Glasgow, to increase their annual per capita levy by 15p to 40p. As expected, the meeting lived up considerably when the increase came up for discussion. Scotland, Ireland and Wales were all in favour of the resolution but England, as everyone knew, was opposed to the idea on the grounds that it felt the LGU had no immediate need for additional funds.

While Mrs. Margaret Knights, the Hon Treasurer of the LGU, did not deny that the increase, which would be payable in 1979, would produce a healthy surplus, she went on to say that it was about time the Union operated on a profit rather than a loss. "We have never been a profit-making organisation but surely, as the present body, we must be in a sound financial position in order to support a forward-looking programme."

After Mrs. Jean Burnett, a formidable though not untriumphant former chairman of the LGU, had stated, quite plainly, that it was not for nothing that she had been morning arguing about 15p, the matter was put to the vote. The LGU obtaining exactly the two-thirds majority they had hoped for resolution to be passed.

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Badminton

Green takes on man Batten should have met

By Michael Phillips

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Boxing

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Athletics

Coates wants to step down to speed up

By Cliff Temple

Athletics Correspondent Dennis Coates, of Guteshead Hill, on his last form (only 20 minutes after he had set a world best for the 2,000 metres steeplechase), it does mean that he will almost certainly have to produce a 11 as he is voluntarily abandoning his second bid at the cherry.

The European championships qualifying standard for 3,000 metres is 11m 40s, and has not been achieved this winter by any British athlete other than the United States-based Nicholas Rose, who has been in splendid indoor form recently. The standards have to be achieved by February 28, and Milan entries close on March 1.

The time should not be beyond Coates, who has been better known in the past for his cross-country exploits in winter rather than on the indoor track. A foot injury before Christmas meant that he had to change his plans, however, and avoid too much running on frosty ground. The rest of the team for Sentenberg is basically the same as that

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Cricket

Coates wants to step down to speed up

By Cliff Temple

Athletics Correspondent Dennis Coates, of Guteshead Hill, on his last form (only 20 minutes after he had set a world best for the 2,000 metres steeplechase), it does mean that he will almost certainly have to produce a 11 as he is voluntarily abandoning his second bid at the cherry.

The European championships qualifying standard for 3,000 metres is 11m 40s, and has not been achieved this winter by any British athlete other than the United States-based Nicholas Rose, who has been in splendid indoor form recently. The standards have to be achieved by February 28, and Milan entries close on March 1.

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Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria

Ministry of Hydraulic Engineering,
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Directorate of Hydraulic Engineering

NOTICE OF EXTENSION

INTERNATIONAL
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The date specified for tenders for the supply and
installation of the whole of the electrical and electro-
mechanical equipment needed for the sixteen (16)
wells of the Bouteldja water table as well as for the
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"ANNABA", viz. 21 January 1978, has been extended to
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years of age on September 1, 1978.

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One scholarship of £500 per annum will be available to boys under

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One scholarship of £500 per annum will be available to girls who

will have completed their O' levels by June, 1978. The examina-

tion will take place at Cirencester in March. The scholarship will be

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Noah Lucas advises Mr Begin to pay less attention to the practical aspects of friendship

If the Israelis want peace they must meet the political requirements first

The diplomatic stiching in Jerusalem and the recall of the Cairo team reflect the accuracy of President Sadat's observation on the extent of the psychological gulf separating Israel and the Arab world. Two lesser fissures may be traced to a veritable geological fault underlying the terms of the encounter of foreign ministers.

In the first place, Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, does not need Mr Sadat's permission to grant autonomy to the Arabs of the West Bank. Israel could have granted autonomy at any time during the past 10 years if it had wished, and could do so tomorrow, assuming that the Arab population cared to exercise such autonomy. Mr Begin's offer does not rise to the level of Mr Sadat's challenge, because the latter obliges him to deliver something to the Palestinians that the Arabs could not get from Israel except by offering peace.

Under the pressures and constraints of regional politics, in other words, Mr Sadat can only make peace to the extent that it is necessary for him to do so. Mr Begin's proposals for the West Bank impose no such necessity, neither on Mr Sadat nor on any other Arab factor.

Secondly, Israel's West Bank

offer, whether regarded as a preliminary negotiating position or a final stand, in fact enlarges Israel's claims. Far from making concessions, the terms of Israel's detailed proposals suggest that Israel seeks concessions rather than offers them. In other words, Mr Begin's proposed starting point for discussion is a position less reconcilable with Arab interests than the position Israel took before Mr Sadat launched his initiative in the name of reconciliation.

Clause 24 of Israel's package as put before the Knesset after the Christmas meeting at Ismailia, states: "Israel stands by its right and its claim of sovereignty to Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district. In the knowledge that other claims exist, it proposes, for the sake of agreement and the peace, that the question of sovereignty in these areas be left open."

This is an entirely new Israeli claim, casually tucked away in the rigmarole of the Israeli blueprint.

In the past Israel has not claimed sovereignty over the West Bank. Israel's previous governments always referred studiously to the West Bank as the "administered territories", and Israel indicated time and again that it was ready to withdraw from some of these territories in return for a grant of

sovereignty in such of the areas as is considered vital for its security. In this approach the implication was always clear that any such negotiated grant would be regarded as a price that Israel would exact for partial withdrawal, rather than the consummation of some potential sovereignty pre-existing on its own merits.

Of course the Begin government made no secret of the fact that it regards the West Bank as part of ancient Israel and therefore as part of modern Israel. This assertion was consistent with Mr Begin's ideas as opposition leader for 30 years, and it was widely heard as belonging to the same rhetorical universe as his view that the East Bank of the Jordan now ruled by King Hussein will in its destiny's good time come under Jewish rule. The Begin formula disseminated in the first summer of his elevation emphasized that you cannot annex what you already own. This was not generally regarded nor was it reported as a formal legal claim.

The impression that the formula was essentially rhetorical was sustained by the fact that its content made redundant any attempt to give it legal expression. However, the context of the formal peace proposal is the vehicle of the claim asserted in Clause 24, renders imperative the impli-

cation that legal sovereignty is now at issue. Apart from East Jerusalem, which Israel annexed immediately after the war of June, 1967, no other occupied territory had been claimed by Israel in the legal sense until the diplomacy generated by Mr Sadat elicited the current Israeli response.

Both the intrinsic deficiency of Israel's proposal and the untimely enlargement of its claims may be traced to a deeper discrepancy between Mr Sadat's approach and the Israeli response. This may be seen in the different attitudes of the parties towards the general status quo and their associated differing understandings of the political nature of peace.

Conservative Arab forces consider the status quo to be essentially an intolerable state of war, and they now wish to change it by making peace. In this they concur with the Israeli left, a paradox which reflects the divergent development of the Israeli national movement. The more radical elements in Arab policies, by contrast, whether in power or in opposition or indeed in exile, regard the status quo of the last 10 years (and for that matter the last 30 years) as essentially an intolerable peace, and if they could they would make war to change it. All these have in common that

they wish to change the status quo, whether in the name of peace or war.

The Israeli right wing, now in power, is a lone exception in that its probable preference is for the maintenance of the status quo. None more vividly represents this attitude than Mr Begin. This is not to impugn his good faith when he speaks of peace, but to probe his understanding of the nature of peace. For Mr Begin shares with the Arab left the view that the status quo is a state of peace, while differing from them in finding that state tolerable and even desirable. So much so that Mr Begin in all likelihood would be willing to make war in order to maintain the status quo.

Israel's peace proposals are closely patterned on the status quo because to the present leaders of Israel the status quo resembles their idea of peace. If this peace can be amplified by Arab recognition and reciprocal relations, peacefully attained, then so much the better. Mr Begin sees peace as being the existing state of affairs plus some new fringe benefits, rather than as a radical departure from the status quo of the past decade.

Not that Mr Begin is an absolutist in this conception, for it is tenable only on the assumption of Arab incapacity to wage war in the foreseeable

future. Israel's government hopes and expects that in the next few years the tide of swelling Arab influence and power will turn as the West rearranges its energy procurement. Mr Begin therefore does not want to assist large changes, but rather to hold on until pressures will ease with the turning of the adverse tide in world politics. The status quo is an approximate outline of peace as he understands it, and he fully expects that others will also come to see it in this way in the fullness of time.

This may help to explain why Israel attaches so much premature emphasis to the concrete elements of peaceful relations, such as diplomatic exchange, trade, travel and so forth, while showing less sensitivity to the political foundations of peace which must be laid. It is almost as though the Israelis were unable to appreciate that the quality of contacts between Israel and its neighbours following the conclusion of peace agreements can only reflect and possibly match, but cannot exceed or transcend the political content of rapprochement.

Dr Lucas, of Sheffield University, is the author of *The Modern History of Israel*.

Reginald Maudling's letter to his constituents

If I was correct, or, at any rate, substantially correct in my diagnosis yesterday of the way the electorate came to make their choice, what are the lessons we can draw for the strategy of the Conservative Party in 1978?

I think we have to deal with the past, the future, and the present, probably in that order.

There are many criticisms to be made of the past record of the present Government, and how what they have done is damaging to our present situation. It is right for us to point out their failures and their mistakes, and to argue that had they been a better Government the country would not be in the sad position it is now.

Take unemployment as an example, though it is true that this is a problem throughout the western world, though it is true that technological development and the displacement of men by machines creates real problems, the simple fact is that we should not have as many unemployed as we have now if the Labour Party had not cast wage restraint to the winds and capitulated to the trade unions when they came into power in the 1974 election. Equally, it is true that many people in this country, particularly what are called the "middle class" and the small businessmen, feel that this Government has treated them with gross bias and discrimination. We are not to be refused, and we are wise to use them. But it might not be wise to overrate the effect they will have in the election. For people do become rather bored with the past, and in the current mood of scepticism about politicians, many might be inclined to say, "Why should we believe that you yourselves would have done any better?"

One point seems to me of enormous importance, and it is this. Mr Callaghan is now giving a splendid imitation of the common man's Stanley Baldwin. He is appearing as stability and common sense in person. To what extent his claims are justified, it is difficult to say. But it is no doubt an attempt to make political mileage by trying to debunk him, but I doubt if this would be a wise tactic. In the first place, I do not think it would work, and in the second place, the danger is that we are pushed to the extreme in our desire to find something ferret from what the Labour Party is doing. The danger that we may be pushed adopting policies of a far more extreme character than anything to do with the practical aims of present-day Britain.

It is so tempting to latch on to a wave of emotion, and to be particularly true in fields as wide as wages and price controls, to take one example, the control of immigration take another. It is always cult in such matters. I party in opposition to pre a balance in its policies, it balance is what is needed. The "Middle Way" was never glamorous way, though I right.

Of course, there are features of the Government's present policies, from actions in Rhodesia to its attitude towards the new trade unions over individual which call for vigorous criticism. But we must be careful where it is justified, or avoid the temptations of a purely oppositional. Above all, our policies must be as coherent and consistent. We must show how intend to provide more without rekindling indifference. We must show how any of controlling money supply through the money supply be reconciled with expansion more jobs, more output, prosperity. In the 1959 election the Labour Party ignored the time that they would incur public expenditure and taxation. These two objectives were clearly inconsistent: electorate recognized the consistency and the Labour Party suffered heavily. This is a lesson that should not be ignored.

How then do we deal with the present? This is the most difficult problem of all, for the Labour Government is currently pursuing policies, in economic matters especially, very much in line with what we ourselves have been advocating. It has virtually dropped any further nationalization; it is making fairly successful efforts to contain public expenditure; it is committed to substantial reductions of direct taxation. Some have already been put into effect and others will no doubt follow. It is fairly obvious that the problem of wage inflation and seems to be surprisingly successful in standing up on behalf of the consumer, to the pressure of the trade unions. The Eirene's dispute and the miners' strike, productivity deals are good examples.

Concluded

The author is Conservative MP for Barnet, Chipping

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Bernard Levin/Impressions of India, part 2

A giant's palette of colours and contrasts

The impression of India that will remain brightest in my mind until I can return is the one that was brightest literally as well as figuratively. I suppose that the colours of India, from the dazzling greens and yellows of the mangoes and the saris to the hues of the fruits and vegetables (even a tomato seems redder than in Europe), are the inevitable consequences of centuries beneath that sun. But the style with which the colours are deployed must come from something deeper; the neatness of the heaped bowls and pans of various comestibles, spread out on the pavement with the vendor squatting in the middle, is the neatness of insouciant art, the shapes and colours and textures, being balanced so surely that the whole picture became a giant's palette. And the grace goes much further than that, extending into every movement and attitude. No doubt the sun accounts also for the fact that I never saw anybody running or even hurrying, and I fell into the surrounding way of life so quickly and completely that I found myself walking upstairs, though I am normally incapable of ascending any staircase except two at a time. I do not believe a European can visit India, even for so short a time as my fortnight, without getting some sense of peace and harmony from a civilization that was old before Rome fell, never mind Constantinople.

And yet only a few miles from this peace my car disturbed a flock of birds by the roadside, and I realized, with a shock that could hardly have been greater if Popeye or Donald Duck had stepped out of their cartoons and bade me good morning, that the ugly brutes were vultures, and that I had interrupted their horrid lunch. That, of course, only served to symbolize a whole range of remarkable contrasts that strike even the most hurriedly passing visitor.

Some of these are of a distinctly western kind. Contrast one: he would be a very nationalistic Indian who declared that the booking arrangements of Indian Airlines leave no room for improvement; yet the security frisking at Delhi was the most thorough I have ever experienced. ("He gripped my buttocks," said the distinguished television man with whom I was travelling, "with quite unnecessary severity.") India is the only country I know where they check your baggage-tag against the match-



Land of paradox: modern skyscrapers overlook an open-air laundry in Bombay.

ing one on the suitcase before they let you take it out: in many ways India is decades behind the West; yet credit-cards—one sure sign of an advanced society, if not indeed a society too advanced for its own good—are more ubiquitously accepted than anywhere else except the United States. Contrast three: the paint is peeling at the hotels; but the ratio of staff to guests must be the highest in the world. (One guest in my Delhi hotel lost his room-key; he was instantly accommodated with a "key-walkie", whose duty—sole duty, so far as one could see—was to be ready to open his door with a pass-key at any hour of the day or night.) Contrast four: the music of India is unique and fascinating, however strange to

Mozart's ears; but dinner was accompanied by a four-piece combo playing a syncopated version of *Scotland the Brave*. Contrast five: the grace to which I have referred is surely an elegance of the soul; yet it is not, apparently incompatible with widespread defecation in public. Contrast six: four-fifths of India's people live in her villages, and follow a peasant economy that for millions has not changed for centuries; yet the Dart aeroplane engine is now made in India, and the former air marshal turned civilian industrialist and executive, was blunt about Britain's export-performance, explaining that of the three principal requirements we are now only reliable on export.

Contrast four: the music of India is unique and fascinating, however strange to

large balance-of-payments surplus, but no doubt it is a contribution. And the imbalance will not be corrected by the British Government paying India, as it is also paying Poland, to "buy" British ships. Contrast seven (or perhaps this is only another of those things we never find out before setting off): the dawn may not come up quite like thunder, but night falls like a stone into a well, and the temperature with it. Contrast eight: India knows not the teabag, but she also knows not the teapot-handle that can be touched without third-degree burns ensuing.

Contrast nine: It is true that I arrived in India just after Mr Callaghan left, but the fact remains that throughout my stay I could find almost literally not so much as a para-

graph of news from Britain in any Indian newspaper. The only exception I can recall was a splendid example of the ancient truth that no man can see the back of his own head without a mirror. One day, *The Times of India* carried a thoughtful dispatch from London with an Indian byline, presumably the paper's correspondent here. It was about Judge McKinnon and his remarks in the Kingsley Road case; clearly sympathetic to Britain, and almost fair to the judge, the writer nevertheless provided a useful corrective from the fact of his racial standpoint alone, to those rancid "While I am not a racist, nevertheless" letters that I had been reading just before I left home. It was, for instance, easier to deny than to refute the writ-

ter's charge that "Most prominent front-benchers in Parliament have yet to show, by speech and action, that they oppose racialism and would support policies to reduce racial disadvantages in many fields of activity." But just as I was putting on my Former Colonialist's Guilt face, I came upon this notable passage:

People of West Indian origin, who are educationally backward and largely unemployed, account for much more than half of the immigrant population. They just do not have the capacity to take jobs from Britons.

Contrast ten, and the most interesting of all: the crushing victory of the Janata party in last year's election (it would be more correct to describe it as the crushing defeat of Mrs Gandhi), which ended the increasing tyranny of the Emergency, should have wiped out all but the bitterest memories. Yet I found that even now, after the fall of the house of Gandhi and Son, the period of authoritarian rule (which lasted only twice as long, after all, as the time that has elapsed since it ended) still dominates the minds of all those with whom I discussed current events. The Indians at the conference I went to, for instance (which was an Anglo-Indian exchange on the lines of the Anglo-German Königs-winter), were, it is true, all intellectuals of one kind or another; yet they included a wide variety of such kinds—politicians, academics, journalists, businessmen—and every one of them made clear how deeply India had been marked by Mrs Gandhi's rule. (And I must pause here to recall that it was the voters of India en masse, including the poor, the hungry and the uneducated, who threw her and her cronies out, thus giving the lie to those who argue that dictators—left-wing ones, of course—not only make the trains run on time but are regarded with universal admiration and affection by the masses whose material needs they satisfy; or, more precisely, do not satisfy. Perhaps the old man asleep on the pavement in Delhi had helped to vote the Gandhi out.)

The eleven and final contrast consists of the gulf between everything ever written or photographed about the Taj Mahal and the reality of its living presence. It is indescribable; yet I, too, must attempt to describe it; and to the inevitable failure I shall turn my attention on Friday.

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THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

London was not at the rainbow's end

A rainbow arching over the conference hotel was espied by David Spence, diplomatic correspondent of *The Times*, who is in Malta covering the Anglo-American-Patriotic Front talks on Rhodesia.

No such hopeful augury is reported from Salisbury during the so-called interim settlement talks, and one had to look hard for any signs of optimism at a London gathering yesterday, peripheral to the overseas negotiations but not unrelated to them.

One had to look hard, too, for the chief speakers. Not until the proceedings at the African Centre were almost over did someone remember to turn the lights on over the deeply-shadowed platform.

The occasion was the launching of *Black Fire*, an account of the guerrilla war in Rhodesia. The author, Michael Rieburn, who makes documentary films too, was on the platform.

So was a fellow Rhodesian, Anthony Wilkinson, a Ford Foundation fellow who wrote the book's introduction. So was Philomena Mabuza, a guerrilla who appears in the book as Joseph, member of a Zulu platoon. So was James Baldwin, the American civil rights campaigner.

Mr Baldwin said the sun would never again find the British Empire, and both blacks and whites applauded him. Mr Rieburn said that the Macmillan wind of change had now become the title of his own book, and the publisher at his side nodded approvingly. Mr Wilkinson said that, without the gun, he could see no final solution for Rhodesia.

The level of questions from journalists was high. One asked: "When black and white are locked in conflict, how can common humanity be saved?" To the obvious relief of the rest of the platform, Mr Baldwin tackled the question. "Humanity rescues itself by talking sides," I left the African Centre still trying to work that one out.

Farmhouse sign near Hordon on the London-Southern road: "Eggs laid while you wait."

A breathtaking disclosure

Two pieces of vital information about James Galway, the master flute player about whom I wrote last week, emerged from the press conference which RCA gave to welcome the temporarily wheelchair-bound Mr Galway back to professional activity.

The first revelation will interest many readers including Mrs Margaret Dilks, of Reading, whose letter to *The Times* appeared on Monday. She did not know the name of the chirpy music which a recorded Mr Galway plays every morning on BBC Radio 4's *Up to the Hour*. I can tell her it is Tambourin, by Francois Joseph Gossec.

The second, even more absorbing, revelation is that even the amazing Mr Galway could not take enough air into his lungs to play the four-and-a-half minute *Mon Perpetuo* by Paganini—one of his 12 "showpieces"—without taking another breath or two. The truth is that the performance was broken down into three parts, and the whole was then edited together.

When nobody ate humble pie

A rather unkind funeral was arranged for the public bar pork pie in that well-known London public house, the Europa Hotel, Grosvenor Square, W1, yesterday.

The organizers of the Pub Grub contest (Chef & Brewer) chose this incongruous location to explain that food standards in many pubs are not what they should be.

But in announcing new standards for those which they control, they chose to bite the hand which feeds them. Not a drop of ale was to be found on the menu which included fresh strawberries with sweet champagne.

The strawberries were flown in from New Zealand at an undisclosed cost which, I am told, was not out of tune with Maxwell Joseph's Grand Metropolitan pre-tax profits of £77.8m.

Where all this leaves the ordinary Saturday night drinker, I am not sure, but certainly the winners of the contest (Don and Mary Broomhead of the Red Bridge, Ainsworth, Bury, Lancashire) are not expecting a big drop in demand from the locals.

To win, they had to meet and beat the minimum standards laid down by Chef & Brewer. These are: three hot dishes plus veg, three cold dishes plus salads, a range of sausage rolls and sandwiches, a ploughman's lunch and a good cheese board. All were sadly missing at the Europa yesterday.

The nation's industrial ego, deflated of late, ought to swell slightly at this news of a remarkable example of British productivity. Twenty-one days ago, fire destroyed the kitchens and entire interior of Mr Chow, the Knightsbridge Chinese restaurant which pumps high society stomachs. Last night, after three weeks of non-stop efforts by an army of plasterers, carpenters, glaziers and assorted engineers, Mr Chow reopened with a party. Not only is it a phoenix, but its fine new feathers are worthy of a peacock. Ornithologists who write to me complaining of a mixed metaphor, will get no reply.

"Tell me, Liddle, who pays the postage?"



A sign in an Oxford Street department store says: "Mens Underwear: Large Clearance." It did not, however, refer only to outside garments.

Jumping to the wrong conclusion

A survey shows that badminton has overtaken angling as Britain's leading participant sport. But, judging from a letter received by the organizers of the European championships at Preston in April, there are still grey areas in the sport.

The letter was from the publicity department of a leading British plastics firm, wanting to know where at the Badminton (sic) event it would be appropriate for them to erect a marquee in which to entertain guests at what they thought was to be a three-day dressage and jumping event.

Peter Birrswile, director of the championships, wrote to say there was no "e" either the Badminton of trials fame or the racket sport though both derived their name from the same Gloucestershire village.

He wondered if the comp would like to take adverse space in the championships souvenir programme. He is waiting for a reply.

As someone has taken the trouble to count, I ought to say that, according to Facts! Facts (Central Statistical Office), British hens laid 13,561,975,000 eggs between June 1975 and May 1976.

The spirit of Judge Jeffreys appears to linger in the West Country where more than 300 people were sentenced to death at the Bloody Assizes after the Monmouth rebellion against James II in 1685. While executions have declined in the area, prison sentences have not. Home Office statistics show that of all male offenders over 21 who appeared before Dorset magistrates in 1976 charged with indictable offences, 13.43 per cent were committed to prison—the highest proportion in the country. The national average is 7.37 per cent. The Bristol group of Radical Alternatives to Prison are giving Dorset magistrates their Ball and Chain award.



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MRS THATCHER ON RACE

British political leader who talks out on race relations and migration has an obligation to do so with the utmost care. There is a sufficient degree of tension between the races in parts of this country for feelings easily to come inflamed by an inappropriate comment that may lead to give credence to racists or may alarm those who regard themselves as a sequestered minority. But just as there are strong opinions on this subject it is at that responsible politicians should be prepared to discuss it fully: otherwise they leave the clear to those who seek to inflame hatred. It is wrong, therefore, to criticize Mrs Thatcher for dealing at length a Conservative policy on migration in the Granada television programme *World in Action* on Monday evening.

It would also be absurd to use her of doing so in a racist manner. Her phrasing, though clearly deliberate, might certainly have been better. Her condemnation of the Front might have been couched in such a way as to leave no uncertainty of the nature of that movement, which is a most pernicious force on British social and racial life if its strength rises. It goes against the whole of our tradition, it thrives on hatred and it fans that hatred, without making the least attempt to deal constructively with the considerable problems involved. But it is her racist remarks, not her condemnation of the Front, which are the cause of concern. For Mrs Thatcher to base the importance of race relations on imposing control over immigration is to say that the growth of non-white population in this country is likely to come more from a natural increase in the minorities here than from immigration. Yet the fact cited by Mrs Thatcher of an annual inflow of some 40,000

to 50,000 is not negligible and represents for those whites who feel most vulnerable to the impact of immigration the deliberate toleration by the Government of its indefinite continuation. To show that immigration would not be allowed to go on for ever at that level is helpful for race relations, because the prospect of an unending flow of immigrants at the present rate contributes to fear.

The weakness of Mrs Thatcher's remarks was that it was by no means evident precisely what she was promising. She spoke of holding out the prospect of a clear end to immigration. That phrase is ambiguous. If it suggests bringing immigration to a complete stop at some specified date that would be unrealistic. There is a strong case for further limitation. It is a mistake to allow engaged girls the right to bring their fiancés in to this country because, given the custom of the arranged marriage among the Asian communities, that provides a natural way for the law to be avoided.

That can be and is done without any violation of their normal social practices because these do not require or expect any bond of affection before marriage. So in these circumstances it is hardly surprising that so many marriages should be arranged with the purpose of providing fiancés from the Indian sub-continent with the right to live in this country. There would be no infringement of human dignity if this right were withdrawn, to be replaced by a discretion to be used in those cases where there was a personal or compassionate reason. But, wise though such a change would be, it would not put a stop to all further immigration.

The more natural meaning to attach to the reference to holding out the prospect of a clear end to immigration is, however, that it should be shown that

the number of dependants waiting to come into this country under existing law is limited. That would seem to follow from the context in which she made the remark. It would imply a register of those dependants entitled to enter Britain at some time in the future. In principle it would be a good thing if an accurate register of this nature could be compiled. But the Franks committee which reported nearly a year ago concluded that there were considerable practical difficulties; and an inaccurate register that inflated the numbers who might come would inflame no reassurance. If such a register is to be Conservative policy then it is up to them to show that it could be operated effectively. If they have something else in mind then it is up to them to explain what it is. A register would be a good idea, but it is a practical one.

It is the effect on race relations that is the critical test for immigration policy. That is why it is right to link further immigration so far as humanity and common sense permit. But that is also why, whenever a political leader speaks on immigration, it is necessary to emphasize at the same time the importance attached to good race relations. Mrs Thatcher did so, but she might have said rather more on that score. It would be absurd to imagine that tough restrictions on immigration would in themselves amount to an adequate race relations policy. It is also essential to spell out what should be done to help the members of the immigrant communities, especially the younger ones who have been born here, to find a satisfactory place in British society. If we cannot give a fair place in our society to the generations of immigrant descent born in Britain, then Mr Powell's dark forebodings may indeed be fulfilled.

Dr Coggan's appeal for inter-communion

From the Reverend Dr Robert Butterworth, SJ

Sir, Canon Baker (January 31) imagines that if you look at the Christian community from a distance, you can discern that "almost all" share the sort of common creed he has bravely constructed: "They all profess belief in a Triune God... in one particular human being, Jesus of Nazareth... etc." Where on earth has Canon Baker been? Has he not heard of last year's dismissal of the doctrine of the Incarnation by leading divines of his own Church? Has he not read the 1976 Bampton Lectures, which dismissed the doctrine of the Trinity? Can he really suppose that his own paraphrase of the Creed is the sort of common creed which Jesus said and to which he died?—is anything like an adequate account of what that sacrament has meant in the Christian tradition?

In this showing, a Catholic theologian who considers it his job, not to try and render Christianity more credible by subverting the historical creeds and inventing new ones, but to understand and interpret the doctrinal tradition of the Church, is found not to be even remotely shy to hesitate to surrender himself or others to intercommunion. Some of us may think that there should be intercommunion now. But imaginative views like those of Canon Baker fail to make us feel that we are all even trying to belong to the same Christian community. In fact, he rather makes us feel that it is not really worth bothering.

Our worries are over "detailed interpretation" of "the temporally trivial". Yet in the end it is doctrinal unity, brought about by the responsible study of the tradition of the faith, and leading to an agreed interpretation and common understanding of its meaning, that has an irreducible part to play in giving us rational assurance that we are in Christian communion with one another.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BUTTERWORTH, SJ,
114 Mount Street, W1,
January 31.

with the official formularies of the Church of England, but with the general scheme of religion that is prevalent amongst adherents of the national church in this country. Everyone who values the heritage of a Catholic and Reformed Faith, which the Church of England affords, must reject the attempt that is now being made, without the consent of the people, to force upon the English Church some kind of consubstantial union with the Church of Rome.

It should also be pointed out, for those who are unfamiliar with the covert methods of ecclesiastical compromise, that the ground for the present climate in relations between the two churches has been subtly prepared over many years. The services of the Church of England have been revised with a view to making them as similar as possible to the services of the Church of Rome. A large number of statements have been put out at regular intervals on points of difference between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England. Such statements, if they are studied carefully, are found not to be concerned with doctrinal differences but with doctrinal differences in which all the major concessions are made to the Roman Catholic side. Thus, truth is set aside while the cause of reunion is set forward; but only by stealth, and by hiding the real disagreements behind a screen of difficult language.

It is important that all who have an interest in the Church of England should realize how far things have gone in the direction of union, and if they value the spiritual heritage of the Reformed English Church, to disown the rash attempts that are now being made to bring the Church of England and the Church of Rome together.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID N. SAMUEL,
General Secretary,
Protestant Reformation Society,
East Ravendale Rectory,
Grimsby,
South Humberside,
January 28.

From Miss Joanna Nash
Sir, As a Roman Catholic and probably no nearer to sanctity than Mr J. E. Humphrey ("nonconformist and chronic backslider", January 30) I must point out to him that it is precisely because we are all meditating on what Our Lord would be likely to say about intercommunion that we are so hesitant about being drawn to do so. Our Lord never at any stage implied that Holy Communion was merely "His disciples meeting around His table"—on the contrary, He impressed upon them that the Eucharist was the most sacred and vital thing that He was leaving them to do after His departure. He was to be undertaken lightly and always to be approached with awe. "Do this in commemoration of Me." It is always inseparable from Our means of redemption, always inseparable from what is at the very heart of Christianity.

If it were only a friendly meal around a common table, I am sure that Catholics would be only too happy to visit at the tables of their friends whenever they were invited—but as long as our fellow Christians continue to believe that it is for the very essence of our religious worship as a mere "meeting around His table" instead of an offering of an eternal sacrifice and

Recognizing trade unions

From Mr Paul Nicolson

Sir, The new legislation on trade union recognition has caused a complex power game of moves and counter moves by trade unions against trade unions and employers against trade unions which leaves Monopoly in the shade.

Mr John Lyons complains in your columns (January 26) that AUEW/TASS found it possible to block his union's recruitment by making a Bridlington complaint and then failing to use the Bridlington procedure. Mr Lyons' union, the Engineers' and Managers' Association, then goes to ACAS. TASS moves on to Bridlington. EMA receives the thumbs down at Bridlington and goes to the General Council of the TUC. Writs are issued. Mr Milward introduces his Private Member's Bill to prevent EMA going to ACAS.

Meanwhile, another power game has been well played at the Playbox Club. The TGWU launches ACE (the Association of Casino Employees). ACE claims recognition from the employer, the Playbox Club. "No dice" is the obvious reply from the employer. ACE refers the issue to ACAS. The employer writes to employees: "If the union comes in, all bets are off. We will go back to square one and negotiate on the basis of confrontation rather than in the spirit of cooperation." The Playbox Club Association is formed and recognized by the employer. ACAS recommends TGWU/ACE for recognition. ACAS's recommendation is invalid because the Staff Association is not named in the ACAS questionnaire distributed to discover the opinions of employees. Fifty-six out of 325 gamblers voted for ACE. Mr Fletcher, MP, launches a Private Member's Bill to keep new-born staff associations off ACAS questionnaires.

This move is designed to prevent the recommendations of ACAS being declared invalid because ACAS did not name a staff association in the questionnaire which asks workers which organization they want to represent their interests to employers. Another clause in the Bill enables ACAS to refuse to consult a staff association about the draft questionnaire.

The authors of the two Bills do not seem to be able to cope with the idea that significant majorities of professional, managerial and staff employees might not accept the trade union which "Bridlington" or ACAS say they must join to gain negotiating rights. Such people entering the trade union movement for the first time resent such instructions. The proposed legislation will cause greater, not less, friction.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY W. HART,
Rector of Cheltenham,
The Rectory,
Park Road,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
January 30.

From Prince Rupert Loewenstein
Sir, Small wonder Roman Catholics dispute the validity of Anglican orders, when so many Anglican divines dispute the divinity of Our Lord.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT LOEWENSTEIN,
Bridstone Manor,
Near Chippenham,
Wiltshire,
January 28.

From Mr Nicholas Scott, MP for Kensington and Chelsea (Conservative)
Sir, For far too long the triangular site opposite the main entrance to the Victoria and Albert Museum has been left derelict—"a vacant lot concealed by parish advertisers' billboards" as Prudence Glynn described it in *The Times* on January 28—and all who know it must hope that the GLC will not lose this precious opportunity of developing to the best advantage and in a manner worthy of its surroundings a site which is of far more than local importance.

The overriding consideration must surely be that any new building here should be one of high architectural merit which harmonises with, and does not seek to dominate, its neighbours in Thurloe Square or the great museum across the road. I believe that in addition to this most people would agree that this is not a site which should be used for luxury flats or other private development but for some much needed public purpose in keeping with its surroundings.

All who have waited long and anxiously for the development of this commanding site—for it does indeed command the entrance to central London from the west—must hope that even in these hard times the final decision is not allowed to turn on narrow considerations of financial advantage.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SCOTT,
House of Commons,
January 31.

From Mr F. Fielden
Sir, Miss Glynn in her short article "The V & A Triangle" (Saturday, January 28), after listing the proposals for the use of this site states that "... the front runners are equally acceptable in the eyes of the Royal Fine Art Commission". This is not quite correct.

In this instance the Commission was asked particularly not to place the schemes in meric order, but to state only whether any were unacceptable. Two were found to be acceptable and a third to be capable with some changes of being made acceptable.

The Commission has nevertheless quite clear views about the relative architectural merits of these submissions.

Yours faithfully,
F. FIELDEN, Secretary,
Royal Fine Art Commission,
2 Carlton Gardens, SW1,
January 30.

Advertising bad spelling

From Mr F. T. Meacock

Sir, Why are the pundits so surprised about the prevalence of bad spelling from our youngsters? For years we have been officially encouraged to drink a pint of milk a day. From such an example what can they expect? Yours faithfully,
F. T. MEACOCK,
123 Whitechurch Gardens,
Edgware,
Middlesex.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR IN ULSTER

Judicature (Northern Ireland) Bill, which comes before the House of Lords again this week, comprehensively reorganizes the courts here. It mirrors in respects the reforms made in England and based on the work of advisory committees, its provisions have been well tested and, which is rare in community, have not led to controversy with one exception. The exception is a new issue and concerns the first time the courts within Ireland, from the Supreme Court to the magistrates' courts, are to be a unified administrative unit. The argument is about the Lord Chancellor's ability to have ministerial responsibility for that administration, the Lord Chancellor as Lord of the Isles or the Lord of the Isles as Lord Chancellor. The advantages of unified administration are, if only because superior career structure it offers. But there is a new issue in the Northern

Ireland Bar and among the judiciary about committing ultimate responsibility for its working to the Secretary of State. This is not because it is seriously supposed that the Secretary of State would take the arrangement would give him to tip the scales of justice. It is because there is just enough material there for exploitation by those who have an interest in discrediting the administration of justice in Northern Ireland. The adage about justice being seen to be done has more force than ever in that divided community.

It is important to emphasize that all matters to do with the appointment, tenure and employment of judges remain with the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland. It is only in the timing and listing of cases that the administrative officers of the courts could be thought to have the slightest scope to influence the outcome of any trial. Nevertheless, it would seem prudent in the context of Northern Ireland to remove the ground for malicious fabrication if that can

be done without too much difficulty.

The Lord Chancellor has very frankly explained that the principal reason for giving responsibility for administration of the courts to the Secretary of State and not to him is that neither he nor his senior officials have the close acquaintance with the workings of the system of justice in the province to appoint, deploy and remove judges than it does to exercise ministerial supervision of the administration of the courts. The Lord Chancellor's discharge of the first office must fit him, with only a little extra reconnaissance, for the second.

This is indeed largely a matter of appearance. As Lord Belstead aptly said when the Bill was given a second reading, the Lord Chancellor's office is seen not only to uphold, but also in a way to represent, the independence of the courts. Northern Ireland deserves to be given, as are England and Wales, the full benefit of that assurance.

From the General Secretary of the Protestant Reformation Society
Sir, The invitation to Cardinal Hume to address the General Synod of the Church of England, and the subsequent plea of Dr Coggan for immediate inter-communion with the Church of Rome, are the climax of a carefully orchestrated campaign to reunite the two churches. All who claim allegiance to the Church of England should consider what this would mean: they may not have heard so much as this.

The Church of Rome, despite the outward changes of the last 15 years, is still an unreformed church. Her doctrinal position on many fundamental questions of belief and practice is the antithesis of that of the Church of England. The supreme authority of Scripture is rejected; the sacraments are seen as magical; the Mass is still essentially a sacrifice, not a Communion; the priest is still a mediator between God and man; and the bread and wine of the Mass are still worshipped as God. The system of Roman Catholic religion, therefore, remains unreconciled, not merely

to Catholics only a friendly meal around a common table, I am sure that Catholics would be only too happy to visit at the tables of their friends whenever they were invited—but as long as our fellow Christians continue to believe that it is for the very essence of our religious worship as a mere "meeting around His table" instead of an offering of an eternal sacrifice and

Rudolf Bahro

From Herr Heinrich Böll and others

Sir, The plight of political prisoners did not end with the "year of the political prisoner" in December 1977. As the CSCE conference in Belgrade moves towards its close, the German Democratic Republic has been urged to intervene for the release of Rudolf Bahro.

Rudolf Bahro has been a prisoner of the East German state security service since August 23, 1977. A political prisoner. The pretext given for his arrest reads "suspected of espionage activities". A pretext so obviously transparent and so slanderous is probably hard to find in the course of history. The reason for arresting Rudolf Bahro is in his book *The Alternative—Zur Kritik des real existierenden Sozialismus*, which has been published by the West German Europäische Verlagssanstalt, the publishing house belonging to the West German trade unions, and will soon be available in English, French, Italian, Spanish

and Danish. This book demonstrates that Rudolf Bahro is a convinced socialist and an extraordinarily talented social analyst and political writer. Rudolf Bahro is in prison in the German Democratic Republic because, basing his arguments on the thinking of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and Rosa Luxemburg, he has discussed critically the type of socialism which exists in his country. Rudolf Bahro is held in prison by a state which calls itself socialist because he, a communist, advocates social progress.

We think it is necessary to remind the authorities of the German Democratic Republic once again: the fact that Rudolf Bahro must be set free is no more and no less than self-evident.

Sincerely,
HEINRICH BÖLL,
GUNTHER GRASS,
GRAHAM GREENE,
ARTHUR MILLER,
CAROLA STERN,
MIKIS THEODORAKIS.

Determining land prices

From Professor D. R. Denman

Sir, Mr David Green and Mr Alan Pines, whose letters on the green pound and land prices you published today (January 27) have each made a common mistake: they assume farmers farm farmland. They do not do so, if by farmland is meant land bought in the market simply as a factor of input to agriculture, the price of which is determined by farm profitability.

On this definition there is precious little farmland left in Britain. The price of land used for farming is set by markets which generate demands for land on a number of counts, only one of which may

be farming. A major influence on the price of land in farming areas is residential. A farm of 100 acres with a farmhouse worth £40,000 and a house worth £40,000 per acre residential value before any land is put to farming. Residential demand is only one among other demands, including farming the land, all of which compete in the land market. Land is a precious resource in itself with its own demands, markets and place in the national economy, and in this sense is but incidental to the economics of farming enterprise.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. DENMAN,
Pembroke College,
Cambridge.

Rover overalls strike

From Mr Hugo von Heidenstam

Sir, Seriously, I believe the public here and abroad are entitled to learn why Leyland Cars' management may think that they can allow, let alone afford, a row as the Solihull factory overalls for inspectors to develop into a walk out of six employees and some of their inspector colleagues, which left the plant no other alternative than to lay off all 3,600 assembly workers resulting in a total stoppage and daily loss of production of £1.5m worth of Rover "cars of the year".

When will British management, workers generally and unions, come to realize that the world around them—taxpayers, financiers and, ever more important, customers here and outside the UK—will no longer be able to tolerate the sometimes inconceivably poor industrial relations from which the public is repeatedly made to suffer? Too late, I fear, unless it is commonly understood and accepted that

failure to bring about some rapid improvement in this field is fatal to Britain and to the once admirable reputation worldwide for British industrial performance and workmanship.

I pray that the good people of this country will all join in putting up as successful and brave a fight as it has proven itself capable of in the past during a state of national emergency. Because that precisely is the need and the solution to most problems—to work hard and perform well—which I and so many faithful old friends of Great Britain have long wished to see accomplished here.

The possibilities of this nation to contribute to prosperity as well as moral and political leadership in Europe is largely dependent on its own ability to produce and compete efficiently.

Yours faithfully,
HUGO VON HEIDENSTAM,
14 Hamilton House,
Vicarage Gate, W8,
January 26.

LANKA'S NEW CONSTITUTION

four countries into which time British dominion in Asia is now divided India involved the most widely mass democracy. It is stronger from having the defeat, break-up and collapse of the Congress and its substitution in by a loose coalition. As have been properly and fully conducted and what the Westminster model of government has had with little change.

tan in contrast has had long periods of parliamentary government and ministerial responsibility but with rare exceptions. One such precipitated in East Pakistan that led to the birth of Bangladesh while the election in March last year was only contested for its that it has led to a new takeover, though this the clear mutual understanding between rulers and parliamentarism demoted to be restored as soon as it is too early to reach a six years after the birth; if anything, the potential for immersion of political parties is explained why rule suppressive of these restrictions is now in control.

Sri Lanka's experience is different yet again. There was no nationalist struggle for independence to match India's and thus no party with real roots. The United National Party almost had power thrust upon it with independence in 1948 and it soon lost office to the leftists Mr Bandaranaike in 1956. Since his death elections have proceeded in relative peace and parties have alternated, though without making much change in society or the economy. The loss of momentum was becoming so as to make Mr J. R. Jayawardene, the UNP leader, seek a mandate for constitutional change in last July's election. Winning more than 80 per cent of the seats he can now feel assured of popular support when he takes office on Saturday, the thirtieth anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence, as the country's first president.

While closest to the French, the new constitution bears marks of the British and American systems as well. Unlike the French—and surely an improvement over it—will be the simultaneous election at six yearly intervals of the president and national assembly. The president's executive power will be exercised through a prime minister and cabinet of his choosing within the assembly. As a curb on the power of the

president it will be possible by simple two-thirds majority of the assembly to vote him out of office. For some years Mr Jayawardene has not hidden his feeling that the fickleness of parliamentary factions has made for weak government with necessary but unpopular decisions constantly evaded. One obvious result has been an economy that is still stagnant.

Over the next few years Sri Lanka's neighbours will be interested to see by how much effective government is augmented through this constitutional change. Within Sri Lanka itself no such patient curiosity can be expected. The political life of the country was noticeably coming to the end of one phase when the parties that existed at independence were becoming played out, their leaders, from extreme left to extreme right, almost all representative of a small, urban, highly educated, often Anglicized, political upper class. Given the opportunities of independence they have had little to show for it after thirty years. Rumblings of discontent have never died down after the wild, youthful, ill-directed insurrection of 1971. Now, with 10 per cent unemployment, trouble could break out again. Mr Jayawardene has seen this and intends to forestall it. The next year or so should therefore show whether the country can turn this dangerous political corner.

happen: first the public will not have the chance to hear the great choral masterpieces, and secondly professional musicians in the orchestra may lose work since it will become increasingly more difficult to find sponsors to subsidize choral concerts with professional singers.

Yours faithfully,
C. SPENCER,
Chairman, Philharmonia Chorus,
5 Hall Gate,
St John's Wood, NW8.

URS in choirs

Charles Spencer

Mr Backerby's article (21) may give the impression that the policy threatens the existence of choirs in this country. I can only speak for the choir I am in, and can assure you we have no intention of going out of business by Equity else for that matter.

It is surely wrong for Mr Jack Elliott, Equity's organizer, to speak about amateurs encroaching on the professional's work, the truth of the matter is that it is the other way round. Large choral works such as *Messiah*, *Missa Solemnis* and *Verdi's Requiem*, etc. have nearly always been performed by amateurs.

The real danger, however, lies in the fact that since orchestras cannot afford promoting concerts with professional choirs two things will

MINE DR...
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College

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machinery

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S industry gives unexpected backing to Carter programmes

Frank Vogl
London, Jan 31

Members of the American industry have surprisingly endorsed the new economic programmes announced by President Carter. These programmes, which include a series of trade price cuts being brought in by the President in time for an expected sales peak in the summer.

It may be that the share capital will be set at a level for equity-funded development as well as initial loans, which can be drawn in various ways from Government and the NEB, or even under guarantees from market sources.

Mr Edwards aims to achieve profit oriented performance. Apparently he feels this can be best achieved by making the new cars company and its separate limited concerns more self-contained and responsible.

Present speculation is that Mr Edwards has to find between £200m and £1,000m over five years, provided under firm agreements; but he feels he will get government backing if the workforce accepts his strategy and enters into commitments on wage and cost reductions.

By the autumn however, both companies had taken up positions in a price war. Each launched a new product at the lowest end of the price range.

Polaroid introduced its Model 1000, an integral film camera which was £10 or so cheaper than any of its earlier equivalents.

But Kodak, besides challenging Polaroid's Model 1000 by bringing out its competitively priced EK2, also dropped its other prices just before Christmas. The suggested retail price of its EK1 camera came down by nearly £18 to £37.27 at the top of the range and the EK4 at the middle fell by over £11 to £37.61.

Polaroid is now reacting by bringing down its prices in turn. A new list circulated to the trade this month makes cuts of up to £5.50 to four of Polaroid's middle priced cameras to give a retail range of between £30 and £50.

So far both companies have left the price of their latest EK2 and Model 1000 cameras unchanged in the £20 to £25 range; but further price developments at this level are thought to be imminent.

Kodak already claims that its product is selling at less than £20 in some multiple shops.

Polaroid has a deeply entrenched foothold at the bottom end of the price scale with its Instant series (which replaced the colour Swinger brand name last year). Using a non-integral film system, these models retail at £10 to £12 or less.

But Kodak, which by specializing in mass-produced cameras at low prices, has become the world's largest producer of conventional photographic equipment, must be planning to use the same tactics to win instant sales.

What seems to have happened so far is that although sales of cameras generally have been slack, heavy advertising has lifted the total performance of the new instant types. Polaroid reckons that about half the cameras sold in Britain last year were of the instant variety as against a third the year before.

Patricia Tisdall

Price cuts 'may force some stores to close'

By Christopher Wilkins

More than £90m of profits could be lost to the big grocery chains this year as a result of the present price-cutting war, and some companies could be forced out of business, a stores chief said yesterday.

The prediction came from Mr Laurence Hill, chairman of International Stores, a subsidiary of BAT Industries and one of Britain's biggest supermarket groups with sales last year of £401m.

Mr Hill's estimates of the potential profit loss will come as a surprise since City projections have put the cost of price cutting, sparked by Tesco's decision to abandon Green Shield stamps last year and recently intensified by Sainsbury, at more like £60m-£70m.

He said that profits of the big supermarket chains, totalling £170m-£180m last year, International had raised its profits from a depressed £18.5m to £5.56m in the year to the end of last September on an increase in sales from £297m to £401m.

Mr Peter Macadam, chairman of BAT, said he expected there would be casualties among food retailers. He said: "There are already a number of shaky store chains about that are up for grabs. These include some public companies."

International, which recently acquired the P. J. Wallis chain of 96 stores, has pruned the number of its stores from a peak of 1,100 to 717. Its policy has been to cut out the smaller stores, and concentrate on bigger units such as its recently-opened superstore at Banbury.

Last year, despite 59 closures, floorspace rose from 1.8 million to 2.25 million sq ft, and International is planning to add a further million sq ft. Twenty big new stores are to be opened in the next three years.

Mr Macadam emphasized that for the moment International was continuing to use Green Shield stamps, but that the matter was continually under review.

BAT profits up 11 per cent: Profits of BAT Industries in the year to the end of September rose from £374m to £416m, an increase of 11 per cent, on sales up from £5,637m to £6,212m. But as a result of lower tax charge earnings per share rose by 24 per cent to 57.6p.

Financial Editor, page 19

Today's Edwardes plan may call for big injections of equity money

Leyland to trade as four companies

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

Formation of four main operating companies, each to be well capitalized and limited by guarantee, apparently remains at the heart of the plans to be announced today by the board of British Leyland.

This implies a considerable amendment to the state-owned group's financial structure, and it is possible that the parent National Enterprise Board and the Government will be asked to approve a radical rearrangement of capital to allow for big injections of equity money.

British Leyland is at present being supported by about £50m of short-term private lending to carry it through negotiations which will place with the NEB on how to finance the revised development programme.

None of the new operating companies has apparently been formally registered, but documents are thought to be ready. The plan is to create British Leyland Cars Ltd, which in turn will be parent to two new subsidiaries, each limited by guarantee, to handle separately the operations of Rover-Triumph-Jaguar and Austin-Morris.

This carves up the Leyland cars division of the present British Leyland Motor Corporation, which on paper owns all subsidiaries and is in turn owned by the main British Leyland.

The three other main operating companies, which are to be given prescribed limits for capital spending and commitments not requiring parental authority, will be Leyland Vehicles Ltd (supermarkets, the truck and bus division), Leyland Special Products Ltd, and Leyland International Ltd (expected to remain the main overseas selling agency, but requiring careful functional definitions in working alongside the three principal manufacturing groups).

Mr Michael Edwardes, chairman of British Leyland, has already indicated his intention to serve as non-executive head of three of the four new companies; but, after recent resignations, new appointments are needed for the main car-making company and its two subsidiaries.

Each company will be expected to place its budget and spending programme before a coordinating committee acting as a small central executive. This will enable the main parent board to restrict its duties to overall strategy and the monitoring of the performance of Mr Edwardes and his executive teams.

All this follows upon Mr Edwardes' statement last November that he wanted to decentralize the operations of Leyland's four main business divisions by the formation of companies run by directors with clear obligations and legal disciplines.

As always it is on car manufacturing operations that interest centres, for this is where a big loss was sustained in the first half of the financial year just ended.

In outlining the proposed structure to the trade union this morning and to a press conference later, Mr Edwardes is expected to indicate the scale of future investment and say something about manning levels to be achieved.

In due course, the intention is to present the corporate structure and a set of objectives to the National Enterprise Board with an indication of future financial requirements. The problem of finance is most acute in the case of the proposed cars company.

It may be that the share capital will be set at a level for equity-funded development as well as initial loans, which can be drawn in various ways from Government and the NEB, or even under guarantees from market sources.

Mr Edwards aims to achieve profit oriented performance. Apparently he feels this can be best achieved by making the new cars company and its separate limited concerns more self-contained and responsible.

Present speculation is that Mr Edwards has to find between £200m and £1,000m over five years, provided under firm agreements; but he feels he will get government backing if the workforce accepts his strategy and enters into commitments on wage and cost reductions.

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Patricia Tisdall

Kodak and Polaroid wage instant price war

Round two of a battle in which Kodak is challenging Polaroid's supremacy in instant photography is heralded by a series of trade price cuts being brought in by Polaroid in time for an expected sales peak in the summer.

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Patricia Tisdall

White House committed to free trade

US Correspondent
Washington, Jan 31

The Administration is resolved to fight for international trade liberalization and will sternly resist rising protectionist pressures in the United States, a special representative said yesterday.

He made his strongest statement in favour of free trade during the Administration's annual State of the Union address. He gave a warning that greater protectionism means higher inflation and long-term employment.

He said in a speech to the National Press Club that of trade barriers or protectionism, the Administration is committed to free trade.

He said: "We will never open our trade deficit until we have the world's glut of goods to absorb."

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Survey shows uncertainty over outlook for industry

Continued from page 1

Companies are appearing to cut back on jobs.

The CBI survey was carried out between January 3 and 18. It covered 2,100 manufacturing firms, including about three million people and accounting for about half the country's manufactured exports.

The replies show that only 19 per cent of companies are more optimistic about the general business situation than they were four months ago, while 18 per cent are less optimistic.

The resulting "balance" of 1 per cent is more or less the same as in the previous survey, indicating little or no change in confidence since late autumn.

There is little sign of any significant movement in the output of the manufacturing sector. The findings will make disturbing reading at the NEDC where a main plank of the industrial strategy is industry's ability to capture a larger share of overseas markets. There has been a start reversal of fortunes in exports, and the pessimism about the outlook is as widespread now as was optimism 12 months ago.

The overall picture on industry's costs and prices is encouraging, and the survey suggests that output prices in manufacturing industry may now be rising at their slowest rate since the first half of 1973.

Another promising pointer comes from the replies about investment intentions. The CBI forecasts that private manufacturing investment in 1978 will rise by 12.5 per cent in volume terms; and 1979 could provide a similar rise.

British shipowners mounting campaign to counter Soviet merchant fleet

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Britain's shipping industry is mounting a concerted European campaign to counter the Russian merchant fleet into the world shipping industry, Mr Walters said of the planned deal.

"This is bound to hurt British shipowners."

Last week the deal was defended by Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, when she told the Select Committee on Overseas Development that the Shipping Corporation of India would receive a subsidy from the Indian Government to neutralize the financial position of the state shipping companies by buying ships from the United Kingdom rather than Japan, where they could have been obtained more cheaply.

Mr Ronnie Swaine, vice-president of the council, said that the Soviet Union was not to be very active in securing business in the cross trades—trades between third countries. In particular, considerable inroads had been made in trades to and from East Africa and the United States and Australasia.

There had been no sign of any abatement of cut-price pricing policies.

Mr Peter Walters, Lack of information on Polish deal.

In relation to the Polish deal. This is being financed in part by a £28m subsidy from the Government's intervention fund, and in effect the Poles have secured 100 per cent credit from the United Kingdom. Mr Walters said that the details concerning the proposed construction of six cargo ships for the Shipping Corporation of India were even more tangled.

Bill on way to save job subsidies

By John Huxley

Employment ministers yesterday said the Government's intention of retaining the Temporary Employment Subsidy in broadly the same form at present. This was revealed when they met representatives from management and trade unions in the textile, footwear and clothing industries.

The Government still believes it can meet European Commission objections to TES. However, it was explained that a Bill would be introduced—probably within the next fortnight—enabling it to bring forward a short time working scheme.

This would enable the Government to cover any shortfall in support if it is forced to restrict the subsidy to meet EEC objections. It is anxious to avert further hardship in the industries which are localized in Yorkshire, the north-west and east Midlands.

Some 180,000 subsidies are at present paid under the scheme, of which about 105,000 go to workers in the textile, clothing and footwear industries. Union and industry representatives were told yesterday that changes would be phased in to continue the support now available, and further consultations will take place.

Both unions and employers are believed to have argued strongly in favour of retention of the subsidy, which they regard as more effective than any short time working scheme.

The Government has looked at several European models for short time working payments—in particular that operated in West Germany since 1969. Proposals now under consideration would encourage companies to defer redundancies by subsidizing short time working.

The European Commission argues that the payment of TES distorts competition.

Protest over state compensation

By Nicholas Hirst

A political row is developing over the low level of interim compensation payments to companies whose shipbuilding and aircraft interests were nationalized last year.

In an open letter to Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Norman Lamont, an Opposition industry spokesman, has protested over the low levels of the payments on account, and complained particularly about the absence of any payment at all for the nationalized Vespene companies.

Mr Lamont's letter, which is likely to be followed by questions in the House of Commons, follows strongly worded criticisms of the interim payments in joint advertisements in national newspapers this week from Vickers and GEC, the two former owners of the British Aircraft Corporation.

The Department of Industry said the interim payments fulfil assurances given during the passage of the Act that "early and substantial payments on account would be made". Mr Lamont points out.

He said the payments were neither early nor substantial, and he was particularly concerned at the lack of any payment so far to Vespene.

Reed profits clipped by £1m in three months

In brief

Town & City Properties, it has completed the sale of Beany Square House to the pension funds of British Rail and British Airways for a consideration of £37.5m. Prudential's share of the proceeds is around £21m.

The insurance company also confirmed an initial yield of 6 per cent—rising to about 7 per cent later this year—on its purchase of Billiter Buildings from Trafalgar House for around £30m.

the markets moved

The Times index: 195.73-1.34
The FT index: 467.0-3.0

| THE POUND | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Grp | 2p to 60p | Prop Sec | 2p to 145p |
| 1c | 2p to 234p | Reed Int | 2p to 177p |
| 2c | 2p to 55p | Shell Trans | 2p to 493p |
| 3c | 2p to 34p | Stew't & L | 2p to 45p |
| 4c | 2p to 48p | Tricoville | 2p to 55p |
| 5c | 2p to 44p | Ultramar | 2p to 227p |
| 6c | 2p to 300p | Libanon | 15p to 478p |
| 7c | 2p to 306p | McLeod Russel | 10p to 390p |
| 8c | 2p to 634p | Moran | 10p to 390p |
| 9c | 2p to 372p | Prop & Ever | 10p to 300p |
| 10c | 2p to 322p | Rank Org Ord | 13p to 245p |
| 11c | 2p to 350p | Western Arcas | 11p to 216p |
| 12c | 2p to 465p | Winkelhaak | 19p to 624p |
| 13c | 2p to 300p | Gold gained \$0.75 to \$175.875. | |
| 14c | 2p to 306p | SDR-S was 1.21512 on Tuesday. | |
| 15c | 2p to 634p | while SDR-E was 0.623011. | |
| 16c | 2p to 372p | Commodities: Reuter's index was | |
| 17c | 2p to 322p | at 1401.4 (previous 1399.5). | |
| 18c | 2p to 350p | Reports, pages 20 and 21 | |
| 19c | 2p to 465p | | |

Peru seeks credits from US banks

A Peruvian mission of commercial and central bankers is in New York holding tentative discussions with United States banks about further loans, according to informed Latin American banking sources.

They said the mission was discussing the state of Peruvian economy with United States banks, which are looking particularly for reassurance that Peru will abide by the conditions of an International Monetary Fund credit agreement and how it will pay for Soviet arms acquired last year.

Thorn in Welsh deal

The Welsh Development Agency has reached agreement with Thorn Lighting for the company to take over the former Balito factory at Dowlais in a move that could create nearly 200 jobs over the next five years.

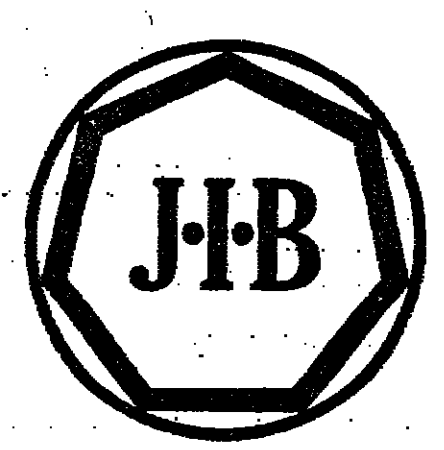
Thorn Lighting is planning to transfer to the Dowlais factory the manufacture of tungsten filaments and coils, now carried out at the Swansea Road, Merthyr Tydfil, works. The transfer will release space at Swansea Road to increase production of electric lamps.

Cheap loans for jobs

Cut-price loans are to be offered to Scottish businessmen to create new jobs in small towns and villages. Under the scheme, announced yesterday by the Scottish Development Agency, loans of up to £30,000 will be available at 3 per cent below the normal interest rate. The offer follows the Chancellor's autumn Budget promise of assistance for small rural businesses.

Prudential deals

Prudential Assurance has completed two major property transactions. Together with



Extract from Accounts at 31st December, 1977

| | 1977 | 1976 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Issued Capital | £000 | £000 |
| Retained Profits | 10,800 | 10,800 |
| Subordinated Loans | 3,350 | 2,462 |
| Deposits | 5,249 | 5,872 |
| Loans | 354,289 | 352,480 |
| Total Assets | 191,800 | 216,665 |
| Profits before Taxation | 3,048 | 2,988 |
| after Taxation | 1,428 | 1,388 |

Japan International Bank Limited

Shareholders

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Fuji Bank | Daiwa Securities |
| Mitsubishi Bank | Nikko Securities |
| Sumitomo Bank | Yamaichi Securities |
| Tokai Bank | |

7/8 King Street, London EC2V 8DX

Ford halt at Halewood starts lay-offs in South

By R. W. Shakespeare

After Ford workers on Merseyside had voted yesterday to continue their unofficial strike, now in its fourth week, the company announced last night that it will begin laying off more workers from its Transit van factory at Southampton today.

The stoppage by 1,000 men from the body pressing departments at the Halewood complex has already made 9,000 more workers there idle through lay-offs.

Ford has lost production of more than £30m worth of Escort cars during the past

three weeks. It decided on Monday to stop production in the transmissions factory at Halewood because industrial action by drivers was disrupting the movement of raw materials and finished components.

It is this stop, involving the lay-off of 1,700 workers from yesterday morning, which has resulted in the progressive run-down of production at Southampton.

From this morning 660 Transit assembly workers will be laid off, and the stoppage may progressively affect all 4,000 workers at the Southampton plant.

There is also a growing threat to production of Cortina and Granada cars at Ford's Dagenham factory, which gets transmission units and other components from Halewood.

After yesterday's overwhelming vote to continue, shop stewards are likely to call for official backing from their unions.

The stewards decided they could not recommend acceptance of company proposals for ending the dispute which is about manning and production. At the heart of the trouble is a shop-floor claim that jobs in the press shop should be rotated on an hourly basis

throughout each shift. The company says this would inevitably lead to a loss of efficiency and quality and has offered to rotate jobs on a four-hour basis.

Throughout the three-week shutdown Ford has been losing production at Halewood of about 900 Escort cars a day.

The Escort is one of Ford's top-selling models both at home and abroad. Coupled with the troubles in British Leyland—a strike at the nearby Triumph car plant at Speke—is now in its fourteenth week—lost production in the British car plants is bound to be reflected when the latest

figures for foreign car sales are revealed. Leyland has been losing all output of TR7 and Delomite cars for many weeks, and its total production losses on these two models stand at well over £80m, because of the Merseyside dispute.

The group is also having to stockpile Rover cars at its Solihull factory because of problems over components supplies.

All these factors could mean that penetration of the British market by overseas car makers may pass the emotive and significant 50 per cent figure when the next tally is made.

High Court gives go-ahead for tanners to sue National Enterprise Board

By Patricia Tisdall

An action by a group of independent tanning companies against the National Enterprise Board was given legal clearance to proceed in a High Court decision yesterday. The tanners claim that the NEB has infringed its guidelines in its dealings in partnership with Barrow Hephburn Gale, with British Tanning Products.

The NEB had tried to block the action. But Mr Justice Forbes in the High Court yesterday dismissed with costs their attempt to have the independent tanners' action struck out.

Mr Forbes said the case involved a point of law of great public interest, which should be decided at a trial. He said that such a trial might be of benefit to all, including the

Secretary of State for Industry who had issued the guidelines under the Industry Act, 1975.

The 14 independent companies, which represent an estimated 65 per cent of the tanning industry, are seeking a declaration from the NEB that the guidelines have been breached. They will also look for damages. Their objection is that the NEB was showing preference to one section of the tanning industry by under-cutting the rest with the aid of public capital.

They also claim that the NEB broke government guidelines which rule that it should become involved only with enterprises offering a reasonable commercial return, through its involvement with Barrow Hephburn Gale and British Tanners.

The case follows the state-owned NEB's £3m investment last year, giving it a half-share in British Tanners, formed to take over the loss-making tanning interests of Barrow Hephburn.

British Tanners is jointly owned by Barrow Hephburn and the NEB. In 1976, the Barrow Hephburn group made a profit of £6.5m of which its tanning subsidiaries were responsible for only £377,000. In addition, the tanning side owed the parent group £11.1m in loans.

Barrow Hephburn had planned to concentrate on its French tanning interests and close those in the United Kingdom, but the NEB intervened. The 12 subsidiaries were then formed into the new British Tanners Products group.

Steel unions resentful of Commons 'intervention'

By Paul Routledge

Crucial pay talks for 100,000 manual workers in the state steel industry resume today a background of growing trade union discontent over "intervention" of the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries in the affairs of the British Steel Corporation.

Leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation are seeking 11 per cent rises before negotiating closure of the Beswick plant, and other high-cost works at a possible cost of 25,000 jobs.

The corporation has so far offered only 6 per cent, and two weeks ago refused to increase the offer unless the unions first conceded huge job curbs.

Now Mr John Boyd, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and for many years chief negotiator for steel craftsmen, has stepped into the row.

British Steel's financial troubles with a call to the Government to dismiss the Select Committee and allow the unions to negotiate on the future shape of state steel.

Mr Boyd said yesterday: "Select committees are an essential ingredient in our democratic procedures, but it is shallow and hypocritical for the present select committee to behave as it has behaved."

"The humblest greaser or slinger in any steelworks could tell them that huge losses are inevitable in the present circumstances; that they, as poli-



Mr John Boyd: declare the Select Committee redundant.

ticians, have contributed largely to it; that Sir Monty Finniston should never have been sacked, and not even whizz kid Sir Arnold Weinstock could change the situation with the discipline and economic circumstances as imposed on the present BSC chairman, Sir Charles Villiers."

"The AUEW leader went on: "All this nonsense that facts and figures have been withheld is all so much silly superciliousness against the serious Japanese facts which even a blind man can see."

"The best service the Government could give the steel industry is to declare redundant, if they can, the present select committee."

Japanese growth slowing

By Caroline Atkinson

Evidence of the sluggish performance of the Japanese economy came with the publication yesterday of figures showing a fall in industrial output, and a rise in unemployment in December.

There is still considerable scepticism in America and Europe about the ability of the Japanese to achieve their stated growth target of 7 per cent in the coming fiscal year, and in particular of the prospects for increased imports into Japan.

The Japanese have argued that the rise in the value of the yen over the past year has slowed growth, and that new government policies to expand demand will be sufficient to speed up growth and narrow

the wide balance-of-payments surplus.

Preliminary output figures showed that production fell by 0.3 per cent in December, after allowance for seasonal factors, giving an increase over the year of 2.7 per cent. This compares to an annual rise of 2.5 per cent in November.

Japanese unemployment is typically very low, as there is much underemployment when conditions are slack. However, in recent months the level of unemployment has crept up, 2.08 per cent in December, or 1.14 million workers, after seasonal adjustment.

Mr Fukuda, the Prime Minister, said yesterday that he expected growth to average 6 per cent a year after the 7 per cent in fiscal 1978. Money supply rose at an annual rate of 10.7 per cent in December.

A case for increasing indirect taxation

From Mr Anthony Jacobs

Sir, The origin of the poverty trap arises primarily from the fall in the tax thresholds well below the poverty line, and the urgent need to tackle this problem is recognized by all political parties.

As a member of the Liberal Party's Taxation Group who have prepared our party's submission to the Chancellor for the forthcoming Budget, I can confirm that we are very aware that if the Chancellor only has £2,000m to "give away" then either personal allowances can be increased or we can bring in a reduced rate band of £1,000 at 25 per cent, which would absorb £1,900m.

To lower the standard rate of income tax as well from 34 per cent to 30 per cent would cost a further £1,200m. If, therefore, only £2,000m is available, there will be no additional relief for the middle taxpayers and the top rates of tax would remain at 83 per cent and 98 per cent.

In our proposals we have tried to take a different line, realizing that to give necessary income tax reductions across the board, a sum of at least £4,500m is required. We would like to give effect to a statement that the Chancellor himself has made that the burden of direct taxation is too high and that of indirect taxation is too low as a relative proportion of total government revenue.

We do not believe that there is very much room for curbing public expenditure, except perhaps in the area of housing subsidies, and to be fair, the proportion of the gross domes-

tic product devoted to public expenditure is in the middle range of western countries. We believe there is little difficulty in raising a further £2,500m by increases in various forms of indirect taxation, including a modest increase in VAT, and the changes proposed would have only a small effect on the retail price index.

It is to be hoped that our detailed proposals can be published shortly, but one can readily appreciate that if one were to have £4,500m available for income tax reductions (£2,000m from deficit financing and £2,500m from increases in indirect taxation) then most exciting and radical reductions in income tax could be obtained. Only a very small amount of revenue would be required to alleviate the burden of higher taxpayers which number only 1,400,000 people. Practically the total sum could be used, for example, to reduce the standard rate of income tax from 34 per cent to 25 per cent benefiting 23 million people and this would cost £4,200m.

Regrettably commentators only express views about possible income tax reductions by considering what revenue is available from deficit financing. None seem to credit the possibility that substantial further sums could be available for income tax reductions from a careful selection of increases in various forms of indirect taxation.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY JACOBS,
20 York Terrace West,
London NW1 4QA.
January 24.

When a lawyer sues his client

From the chairman of the Irish Legal Association

Sir, Doctor Monica Vinn (January 27) is mistaken when she says that a solicitor "an absolute duty to tell client of the availability of (remuneration) certificate obtainable from the Society in respect of a solicitor's fees for doing non-negotiable work, ie, broadly speaking, work involving proceedings in any court or tribunal."

The obligation to which refers arises under the Solicitors Remuneration Order 1968 and it is limited to those cases where a solicitor is minded to sue his client because the client refuses or neglects to pay his fees. In those circumstances, before taking the proceedings in the court, the solicitor is required to draw attention of the client to his right under paragraph (1) of art 3 of the above order.

Incidentally, no similar advantage is available to patients/clients of dental surgeons, architects, etc., and it is interesting to know how Doctor Vinn's own apparent view that anomalous position of solicitors be made even more onerous in regard to obtaining payment of their fees.

Yours faithfully,
S. P. BEST,
29 Church Road,
Royal Tunbridge Wells,
Kent, TN11 1RT.
January 27.

CBI 67th industrial trends survey: Jan '78

1. Are you more, or less, optimistic than you were four months ago about the general business situation in your industry?
2. Are you more or less optimistic about your export prospects for the twelve months than you were four months ago?
3. Do you expect to increase, or decrease, or keep the same, your capital expenditure in the next twelve months, than you anticipated in the past twelve months?
4. Is your present level of output below capacity, or at, or just a small way below a satisfactory full rate of operation?
5. Enclosing several questions, do you consider that the volume of orders is:

| | More | Same | Less |
|----|------|------|------|
| 19 | 63 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 55 | 32 | 1 |
| 21 | 27 | 29 | 9 |
| 22 | 33 | 23 | 1 |
| 23 | 33 | 1 | 14 |

6. Enclosing several questions, do you consider that the volume of orders is:
- a. Your present total order book is:
- b. Your present export order book is:
- c. Your present order book for capital equipment is:
- d. Your present order book for plant and machinery is:

| | Up | Down | Same | N/A |
|----|----|------|------|-----|
| 24 | 41 | 48 | 2 | 2 |
| 25 | 47 | 36 | 3 | 3 |
| 26 | 47 | 36 | 3 | 3 |
| 27 | 59 | 9 | 14 | 14 |

7. Volume of total new order:
- a. domestic order:
- b. export order:
- c. capital equipment order:
- d. plant and machinery order:

| | Up | Down | Same | N/A |
|----|----|------|------|-----|
| 28 | 45 | 27 | 3 | 25 |
| 29 | 41 | 25 | 3 | 31 |
| 30 | 41 | 25 | 3 | 31 |
| 31 | 50 | 23 | 2 | 25 |

8. Volume of output:
- a. domestic order:
- b. export order:
- c. capital equipment order:
- d. plant and machinery order:

| | Up | Down | Same | N/A |
|----|----|------|------|-----|
| 32 | 51 | 24 | 1 | 24 |
| 33 | 50 | 22 | 1 | 27 |
| 34 | 50 | 22 | 1 | 27 |
| 35 | 50 | 22 | 1 | 27 |

9. Volume of stock:
- a. domestic order:
- b. export order:
- c. capital equipment order:
- d. plant and machinery order:

| | Up | Down | Same | N/A |
|----|----|------|------|-----|
| 36 | 51 | 24 | 1 | 24 |
| 37 | 50 | 22 | 1 | 27 |
| 38 | 50 | 22 | 1 | 27 |
| 39 | 50 | 22 | 1 | 27 |

10. Volume of stock:
- a. domestic order:
- b. export order:
- c. capital equipment order:
- d. plant and machinery order:

| | Up | Down | Same | N/A |
|----|----|------|------|-----|
| 40 | 51 | 24 | 1 | 24 |
| 41 | 50 | 22 | 1 | 27 |
| 42 | 50 | 22 | 1 | 27 |
| 43 | 50 | 22 | 1 | 27 |

11. Average cost per unit of output:
- a. domestic order:
- b. export order:
- c. capital equipment order:
- d. plant and machinery order:

| | Up | Down | Same | N/A |
|----|----|------|------|-----|
| 44 | 29 | 4 | 68 | 3 |
| 45 | 49 | 7 | 1 | 43 |
| 46 | 31 | 15 | 2 | 52 |

12. Average price at which output is sold:
- a. domestic order:
- b. export order:
- c. capital equipment order:
- d. plant and machinery order:

| | Up | Down | Same | N/A |
|----|----|------|------|-----|
| 47 | 29 | 4 | 68 | 3 |
| 48 | 49 | 7 | 1 | 43 |
| 49 | 31 | 15 | 2 | 52 |

13. What factors are likely to limit your ability to obtain export orders over the next four months? Please tick the most important factor or factors.

| | Cost | Price | Supply | Other |
|----|------|-------|--------|-------|
| 50 | 13 | 44 | 18 | 25 |
| 51 | 14 | 42 | 15 | 29 |

14. What factors are likely to limit your ability to obtain export orders over the next four months? Please tick the most important factor or factors.

| | Cost | Price | Supply | Other |
|----|------|-------|--------|-------|
| 52 | 13 | 44 | 18 | 25 |
| 53 | 14 | 42 | 15 | 29 |

15. What factors are likely to limit your ability to obtain export orders over the next four months? Please tick the most important factor or factors.

| | Cost | Price | Supply | Other |
|----|------|-------|--------|-------|
| 54 | 13 | 44 | 18 | 25 |
| 55 | 14 | 42 | 15 | 29 |

All these securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.



\$175,000,000

ICI North America Inc.

8 3/4% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures due January 15, 2003

Principal, Premium, if any, and Interest Unconditionally Guaranteed by

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The First Boston Corporation

Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb

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Salomon Brothers

Bache Halsey Stuart Shields

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Paine, Webber, Jackson & Curtis

Warburg Paribas Becker

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Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

UBS-DB Corporation

ABD Securities Corporation

Basle Securities Corporation

Berliner Handels-und Frankfurter Bank

EuroPartners Securities Corporation

Scandinavian Securities Corporation

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co.

SoGen-Swiss International Corporation

January 31, 1978

Energy imports 'jeopardizing EEC coal plan'

By Roger Vielvoys

Energy Correspondent

An apparent abundance of all forms of energy at relatively low prices is jeopardizing the European Community's objective of maintaining coal production at between 230 and 255 million tonnes by 1985, and keeping energy imports to under 50 per cent of total consumption.

This claim comes from the Association of Coal Producers of the European Community (CEPCO) in a document which states that unless European production remains stable, coal will be unable to play an increasingly important role in meeting energy requirements in the final decades of the century.

Short time working and a reduction in productivity has reduced European coal production to 220 million tonnes a year, and stocks exceed 50 million tonnes. While the Community producers are having difficulty in selling coal, imports have risen exceeding 45 million tonnes in 1976.

As a result, the entire burden of the cyclical downturn in consumption has been borne by the Community coal producers. This applies to both coal and coke, the report says, and undistributed stocks have reached the level in most coalfields which has become difficult to bear and which it proved impossible to lower in 1976 and 1977, even with reduced production.

CEPCO calls for an immediate strategy to take account of the longer term prospects for the industry, which safeguards coal as Europe's principal energy source. Immediate measures should be taken to increase 1978 sales by eight to 10 million tonnes a year.

It points out that some Community coal producers are uncertain about the future, and might be compelled to revise their forward production plans. This might involve the danger of reduction in the capacity to produce, either by delaying essential investment or by irreversible mine closures.

A four-point programme for remedying the situation is suggested. Most important is "co-ordination of Community and imported coal supplies" as in the short and medium term an increase in imports accompanied by cyclical downturns in consumption is a serious threat to the preservation of coal production capacity.

The out-of-stock answer

From Mrs J. Korman

Sir, I refer to your page edited by Margaret Stone (December 31) and the article by Francis Kinsman—"Salutations to the Shoppers". Let me quote below:

"However, after solemnly considering my verdict, I would the 1977 Santa Silkin Prize for Monumental Obscurism to the girl in the china department of one store, where I asked for six blue cups of a particular design. They had the same variety in pink but she refused to order the blue ones for me from the same makers on the grounds that they, the store, did not normally stock them."

"So now I have had my moon and got it out of my system. Women of Britain, I salute you and leave you with this thought—if Marks and Spencer can do it, why can't everyone else?"

However, much as I regret the attitude of the girl in the china department of one store, surely there is just as big a

blockage in the mind of Francis Kinsman.

Has he ever known Marks and Spencer to take an order for anything and get it in specially?

Much as he has every reason to feel very annoyed about the attitude encountered, from my experience there is no point in her thinking of Marks and Spencer—because they would have reacted just the same.

Indeed, most of the multiple stores, rightly or wrongly, operate on the principle that they only want to sell what they have put on the shelves and do not want to deal with specials. On the other hand, there are still a number of stores that are prepared to obtain special orders. If Francis Kinsman claims to talk for shoppers, he wants to get with it.

Yours faithfully,
J. KORMAN,
22 Highgate Road,
Copnor,
Portsmouth,
Hampshire.

Making share buying attractive

Sir, In order to increase investment in British industry and encourage more people to become shareholders, it is essential to make sharehold more attractive.

If it is not politically practical to remove all dividend control, Mr Healey can help, for example, by allowing a company whose export sale more than 50 per cent of total sale, to increase its dividend over its previous dividend by up to 20 per cent, and be limited to 10 per cent. I would stimulate exports, increase the dividends and make the purchase share more attractive.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. RIDGES,
Pyrmont,
16 Western Terrace,
New Brunswick,
York X03 8BW.
January 26.

HOWARD MACHINERY LTD.

GROUP RESULTS—YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1977

| | 1977 | 1976 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | £,000 | £,000 |
| SALES | <u>74,450</u> | <u>69,342</u> |
| PROFIT BEFORE TAX | 1,512 | 3,258 |
| Tax | (810) | (1,797) |
| PROFIT AFTER TAX | <u>702</u> | <u>1,461</u> |
| Minority Interests | (16) | 20 |
| DIVIDENDS | <u>686</u> | <u>1,481</u> |
| | (544) | (644) |
| PROFIT TAKEN TO RESERVES | <u>42</u> | <u>837</u> |
| Earnings per Ordinary Share | 2.4p | 5.1p |
| Dividends per Ordinary Share: | | |
| Interim (paid 3rd November, 1977) | 1.045p | 1.045p |
| Recommended Final (to be paid 1st April, 1978) | 1.188p | 1.188p |
| | <u>2.233p</u> | <u>2.233p</u> |

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Tobacco leads BAT profits up

It might over the past few years have been expected that BAT profits would be vulnerable to the tobacco industry's problems. But the fact that tobacco is where its growth lies and that none of its diversification approaches tobacco in terms of being a reliable financial return. Year's profits, up from £374m to £400m, underline the point. Admittedly a paper business came right with operating profits up from £34m to £53m. But here the pressure was on during the half as demand weakened and profits fell from £29m in the first half to £24m. Retailing, meanwhile, was a dismal mer. Profits dropped from £33m to £24m, representing a margin of only 1.7 per cent on sales, because of a dismal performance by Gimbels and Saks in the United States and of this only £5m was earned in the second half. Cosmetics, too, fell back. It was left to tobacco, up from £324m to £374m, to provide 74 per cent of operating profit on 66 per cent of sales and only 1 per cent of assets. In true terms the tobacco business was much more striking, since this on must have carried the bulk of the exchange rate loss following a profit in the year before. Brazil and South Africa are still the powerhouse, although sales were up in both the United States (a further shading of market share) Germany at a time when volume was down. Overall, BAT sold 5 per cent more cigarettes and reckons its share of the world to rise.

A year again BAT will be looking to to underpin profit growth, for while in the United States should er, paper will be under further pressure. The problem, of course, is how much real growth will be lost on conversion of the pound's strength. Conceivably could keep profit improvement down to modest proportions and this is to affect the shares. BAT's best term hope, therefore, may lie in the from the raising of the interim dividend that it could be planning a big rise in payout when dividend restraint ends. In the term, however, a price earnings ratio of 7 per cent at 277p looks value for a business with BAT's long potential.

prepared to speculate on recovery. However, the continuing downward trend in pulp prices could indicate that Reed's crippling Canadian problems are going to get worse before they get better whatever the long-term outcome of the group's present de-gearing policy. And until the Canadian pulp difficulties are resolved the shares are unlikely to make further progress.



● **Harrisons & Crosfield yesterday gained undisputed control of Harcros by declaring its offer unconditional after gaining public acceptance of just 13.9 per cent which pushed its holding and that of subsidiaries to 50.7 per cent.** A consortium of Rothschild Investment Trust, whose chairman is Mr Jacob Rothschild (above), McLeod Russel, Sipef SA and Hume Holdings immediately accepted the offer.

The consortium holds 14 per cent and had been standing in the market for up to 29.9 per cent at 90p a share against the H&C cash offer of 82p and the equivalent of 81p on the alternative H&C paper offer. The Harcros share prices last night dropped 9p to 82p.

McLeod Russel and Rothschild have now gone down to their second defeat having been already beaten over Malaysia. But it is costing H&C potentially £191m (if the cash alternatives are taken) to gain absolute control of two companies it thought it already controlled. On the same basis net tangible assets will drop from 241p a share to 221p a share. If the paper alternatives are accepted net tangible assets increase slightly to 244p, but will involve increasing the issued shares by 25 per cent and will certainly lead to dilution of earnings.

The structure of the group will be radically altered by these takeovers (five other companies will become H&C subsidiaries although two will be deconsolidated), but the attention is now on London Sumatra, for which RIT, McLeod and Sipef are bidding 110p a share cash. There has been no response from London Sumatra or H&C (which with associates has 43 per cent compared with the consortium's 261 per cent). The market is expecting a counter-attack although the shares fell 9p to 111p yesterday. Having failed with its Harcros ruse, the consortium has little chance of success, but may extract a higher price.

International Canada's pact

International's third quarter results in line with expectations. Pre-tax profits are £1m lower at £18.9m to produce a 17 per cent drop in profit. At the same time the group of £1.1m in the quarter interest payments to £8.5m is the first tentative sign that the is at last making some headway in its to cut back its debt mountain of £400m, against shareholders' funds of £1.1m.

So Reed's problems still weigh as heavily as ever. Yesterday's 7p jump in the price to 135p owed more to the sheer volume of further bad news.

by the Daily Mirror dispute which have cost as much as £2m the group's Kingdom operating profits in the quarter were still almost £3m up at 1 reflecting continuing strong growth in paper and packaging activities.

the overseas contribution dropped £14.4m to £11.9m with improvements in Australia and South Africa completely offset by heavy losses in Canada. In the quarter the overseas picture is going worse with Canadian losses of more than £5m exceeding those of the first nine months.

Reed is now in line for a profit of £1.78m against £73m previously, the effects on the tax charge of saved Canadian losses will reduce profits to less than 19p a share against last 26p.

Meanwhile, Reed has yet to reveal its plans on the dividend though a cut of less than a half in the final to leave a payout of 15p would seem implied yield of 11 per cent may be sufficient to retain the interest of those

Wall Street Third market casualty

It now looks as though Weeden & Company's third market operations will succumb to negotiated commissions on Wall Street. At a time when the Securities and Exchange Commission, having forced through the imposition of competitive brokerage charges nearly three years ago, is set to break up exchange floor monopolies by eliminating off board trading restrictions, it is perhaps inevitable that the Maverick third market should suffer. But said, too, that its innovator and greatest practitioner Donald E. Weeden should have to throw in the towel to concentrate on other aspects of his securities business and even apply for membership of the New York Stock Exchange.

Weeden's third market business—a competitive block trading operation in institutional stocks outside the traditional market—was legendary in its time and highly profitable too. But cut-throat rate competition and a dreadful market caused losses by the Weeden holding company of \$6.1m in the first quarter to December. The losses on third market trading have necessitated a revaluation of this activity, Weeden said. The end of another era on Wall Street.

In the present pursuit of higher labour productivity in United Kingdom manufacturing industry it is important not to lose sight of the fact that this is only one aspect of a very complex subject.

Higher productivity in its general sense implies better utilization of existing resources. We must, however, be prepared to define productivity much more specifically than this if we are to get any further.

The general definition of total productivity as the ratio of what you get out to what you have put in is an all embracing measure with severe computational problems. However, to fall back on partial productivity measures, such as added value per employee, and to treat this as a proxy measure of total productivity is totally misleading. It is not true to say that each British Leyland employee produces only 37 per cent of the added value produced by each Toyota worker, but it is equally true that each pound of capital employed in Toyota produces only 22 per cent of the added value produced by each pound of capital employed in British Leyland. To pursue increasing labour productivity through massive capital investment programmes without regard to effect on the productivity of capital is surely too naive a policy.

There are two ways of generating a change in any particular partial productivity measure, such as added value per employee. The first, and easiest, is to substitute one input for another—by putting in more capital the output of the existing labour can be increased and added value per employee will inevitably rise. The question is whether such capital investment is worthwhile on rational economic grounds.

The second is to manage the existing resources more effectively. This should maintain or improve all partial productivity measures, the three most useful being:

- Labour: net output per employee, or net output per £ of employee cost;
 - Capital: net output per £ of capital investment;
 - Material: net output per £ of material input.
- So in what sense does British Leyland have lower "productivity" than Toyota? Is labour productivity certainly lower, but its capital productivity and material productivity are both considerably higher.

We have already seen that the difference in labour productivity is partly due to a direct exchange of capital for labour, but it is also partly due to the much less integrated nature of Toyota's manufacturing operations. One is therefore not comparing like with like in comparing the added value per employee in the clothing industry (£1,853 per annum in 1973) with the added value per employee in the chemical industry (£5,026 in 1973)—much of the difference is necessary to support the capital structure appropriate to the particular industry.

One final point of comparison is the cost of labour itself, since this is the element of the added value. The average wage salary per employee in BLMC was £2,395 in 1974 and in Toyota was £3,157 pa.

It is obviously more meaningful to concentrate on productivity in terms of unit of labour time rather than per unit of labour cost, since the former provides an objective absolute measure, whereas the latter is necessarily rather arbitrary. However, this brings us to the general problem of the effect on unit costs of the costs associated with all the inputs.

In a recent comparison between two plants producing more or less identical products on similar machinery within the same multi-national company—one plant in the United Kingdom and one in a comparable northern European country—it was indeed discovered that in terms of physical output per employee the United Kingdom plant lagged some 15 per cent behind the European one. However, the unit cost of the output in the European plant was 40 per cent higher than in the United Kingdom plant.

The productivity gain in the European plant was more than offset by the effect of the considerably higher European wage rates. In market terms the European plant appears to be viable in its home market, and in supplying exports only because the United Kingdom plant cannot produce sufficient output.

It is not only Holland that is suffering from the Dutch Disease of pricing itself out of world markets. This poses something of a dilemma: low labour productivity in United Kingdom plants discourages new investment and because labour cost is already much higher in Europe the justification for labour saving capital investment is much greater.

In European plants than in United Kingdom plants. However, where the investment is to be made in order to increase total output with the existing

Factors in productivity that should not be overlooked

Colin New argues that measurement of productivity should not focus solely on the performance of labour. Using other yardsticks he finds, for example, that:

- Each pound invested in the British Steel Corporation produces 2.1 times as much added value as each pound invested in New Nippon Steel of Japan.
- Each pound's worth of material put into British Leyland produces 2.68 times as much added value as each pound of material put into Toyota.

ductivity are both considerably higher.

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In European plants than in United Kingdom plants. However, where the investment is to be made in order to increase total output with the existing

labour/capital ratio, it would appear to be most economic (other things being equal) to invest where the unit cost is lowest. For a multinational company this will usually imply investment where labour costs are lowest, unless this advantage is more than offset by poorer labour productivity and lower capital utilization.

However, as we have already said, the level of labour productivity and hence capital utilization achieved with a given labour/capital ratio is largely dependent on good management of the manufacturing process. Moreover, the usual basis for labour productivity comparisons tends to be "the employee" and many differences in observed labour productivity based on "paid hours" are due to differences in the time actually worked rather than to any difference in work rate.

So, if a Dutchman and an Englishman work at the same rate for 40 hours and 36 hours respectively, the reported labour productivity is greater in Holland, although the unit cost may well be lower in the United Kingdom.

We may, of course, say that this is all very well, but that as a nation we ought to be aiming at a higher paid nation along European lines. However, it becomes impossible to pursue a general policy with such an objective. What does seem

clear is that the higher labour productivity levels in Europe can be and indeed have to be paid for. Labour force negotiations are often quite prepared to improve productivity in order to pay for an annual pay increase of, say, 25 per cent.

The challenge is a management one: to identify changes in work methods which will pay for the increase, to put them forward as part and parcel of the wage deal and to make them work in practice. Only in this way can British industry achieve the productivity and wage levels of our major competitors.

Such a route requires changes in attitude in both management and unions, but at least it has obvious positive benefits to both.

Concerning productivity comparisons of the type generally being quoted we can conclude:

- (1) Productivity measures do not necessarily reflect changes in the "efficiency" of production.
- (2) Changes in total productivity are not reasonably measured by changes in output per man hour.
- (3) Increases in output per man hour do not necessarily imply lower unit costs.
- (4) Increases in output per man hour do not necessarily warrant parallel increases in wages per man hour unless we wish to be afflicted by the "Dutch disease" as well as the "British malaise".

But the major point is that productivity is not in any way necessarily tied in with profitability. This can be seen in the case of Toyota and New Nippon Steel. Both taken together are highly productive in terms of labour productivity, but in 1974 Toyota had a net return after tax of a mere 2.75 per cent and Nippon Steel of only 1.06 per cent on very large investments.

If we are to make arbitrary comparisons of productivity can we at least agree that both labour and capital productivity are important and measure productivity appropriately?

The author is Lecturer in Production Management at London Business School and was author of a survey "Managing Manufacturing Operations" published in 1976 by the British Institute of Management.

*A number of the figures quoted are taken from "The Economic Ingredients of Industrial Success," E. E. Jones, The James Clayton Lecture, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers 1976.

The German chemicals industry suffers a reaction

The chief executives of West Germany's chemical industry are facing themselves in a new and uncomfortable position. After long being regarded as a classic example of growth, the sector has developed growing pains.

In the years after 1950, as West Germany grew from a devastated and then in affluence, the industry expanded at an above average rate. Cheap imported oil, the development of new products and the discovery and opening of new market opportunities enabled it to quadruple its production.

A correspondingly high rate of investment produced what is arguably the most concentrated and sophisticated infrastructure for chemicals in the world.

In 1974 sales jumped by nearly 30 per cent putting the industry briefly at the top of the West German league in terms of turnover. Even the recession of the following year, when sales fell by 10.7 per cent and production by just over 12 per cent, failed to injure the "growth" image.

In 1976 chemicals jumped back strongly, with a 13.2 per cent rise in turnover and a 14 per cent advance in the production index.

The 1976 recovery was interpreted in the industry as a sign that the old growth pattern had been restored. Indeed, the sector entered 1977 in the expectation that turnover would increase by between 5 and 10 per cent.

The year turned out to be a disappointment. Turnover grew by a mere 1.5 per cent to about \$5,500m deutsche marks and thus lagged behind the country's overall industrial performance. While it has been estimated that West German industrial production as a whole grew by a meagre 2 per cent last year, the chemical industry's production index stood still.

The slowdown appears to have been caused by a number of factors for which there are no easy solutions in sight. A key restrictive factor is the state of the German economy.

Last year's growth of about 2.4 per cent in real gross national product translated into a rise of only 1 per cent in the chemical industry's domestic turnover.

As the government admits that its own target of 3.5 per cent real growth this year is ambitious, it would seem unlikely that the industry will receive the support from domestic demand.

At the same time, the sector is finding it more difficult to maintain its position in export markets and is coming under greater pressure from imported products at home.

Export sales last year rose by between 2 and 3 per cent, while foreign suppliers increased turnover on the German market by about 15 per cent.

Two important factors behind the concern, because offsetting the advantages of modern plant and sophisticated infrastructure, are the high cost of labour in Germany and the effects of the rise of the Deutsche mark—in particular against the dollar.

German labour costs are among the highest in the world, outstripping in terms of units of production those in the United States and standing at about twice the level prevailing in Britain or Japan.

The fall in the dollar has, it is true, reduced the price of many raw materials, but selling prices are also to a large extent quoted in dollars. According to Professor Rolf Sammer, chairman of Hoechst AG's managing board, the devaluation of the dollar is costing five times what it saves the industry.

Profits have therefore come under pressure. It is tentatively estimated that overall they declined by about 15 per cent last year.

In certain sectors losses are heavy. None of the producers of chemical fibres are operating in the black. Over the past year the capital-intensive bulk plastics sector has been showing similar symptoms of over-capacity and hence of operating at a loss.

According to Professor Matthias Seefelder, chief executive of the BASF group, who is also president of the West German Chemical Industry Association, the European Community's bulk plastics plants are operating at only 70 per cent of capacity.

The West German industry has also to cope with a special problem arising from the successes of the country's heavy plant makers in selling complete chemical factories to the Comecon nations. Many of these plants have been sold in return for goods they produce, rather than cash. Soviet polyethylene, for example, has been offered in West Germany at 40 per cent below prevailing market prices.

But although the outlook for this year may be grim, the industry's managers have grounds for a certain amount of optimism about the future. The industry has invested and does invest a great deal in research and development. It boasts that it is the most research-intensive sector of German industry and its annual expenditure on R and D runs at about DM4,500m. This represents about one third of the cash spent by the whole of industry on R and D while the chemical industry's share of overall sales is about 11 per cent.

However, it is questionable whether innovation alone will suffice to maintain the industry at its present size on its home territory.

Another growing trend will be the expansion of investment in new markets. The markets hitherto served by direct exports from the Federal Republic. So far the favoured areas for expansion have been the United States. The big three chemical groups—Bayer, BASF and Hoechst—already employ about 32,000 workers there.

Business Diary: 'Dr' Murray's casebook • Customs disunion

Murray, who is to be chairman of the National Board of Investment, Fairley, is one of the band of managers who have themselves "company".



Angus Murray: Fairley's successor?

As people like Sir Nicholson, now of Rothmans, and David Dalgety and Crest on, and of course, Sir Brown, who comes from the Hambleton estate, Sir Ian heads the advisory group run by Murray, who is closely involved for years.

Murray's best known work is the revival of Worcester engineering Redman Heenan—was the inspiration of Redman's advisers, in

not see themselves in this category, that is exactly what they are.

Even so, the NEB has to make concessions. Murray, who is 58, will be spending about two days a week with Fairley continuing to hold his other business interests, including the chairmanship of Redman Heenan.

A few home truths are being followed by Viscount Eleanore Davignon, the EEC Commissioner for Industrial Policy (which includes customs) and by Klaus Pingel, director-general of the Community's Customs Union Administration.

The truths concern the fact that although a customs union between the Nine was nominally achieved last July, travellers are still stopped at customs posts by uniformed men asking "Anything to declare?"

Thus, Davignon and Pingel have been re-elected, if one set of duties has been abolished,

it is only to be replaced by other impediments, this time to do with differing VAT rates, health protection, currencies and anti-drug smuggling precautions.

These and kindred points have been put forcibly to the Customs Union Administration at a recent conference organized by it in Brussels under the title "The European Citizen and the Customs Union".

The union asked a member of the Commission's consumers' consultative committee, Britain's Eirlys Roberts, to chair the conference, and Davignon and Pingel have undertaken to do something about the gripes that Mr Roberts uncovered.

An explanation of the strengths and weaknesses of customs union is promised by the time holiday travel gets under way in June.

The CUA has noted the conference's demand for more generous allowances on personal imports of alcohol and tobacco and for an end to the "abnormal phenomenon" by which European shoppers can pay tax twice over, once on purchase and again on importation.

Lastly, there was a warning that consumer protection itself can be used as an excuse to create new barriers at will. The final recommendation of the conference was that freedom of movement can be achieved only when the creative talent that goes into devising such barriers is diverted into dismantling them.

Godfrey Messervy, the managing director of Lucas Industries, told us yesterday that a 33-year-old electrician

employed at the company's plant at Sudbury, Suffolk, had helped Lucas to put one over its principal rival, the German firm Bosch.

Last year, CAV, the group's big diesel injection subsidiary, was, in Messervy's own words, "busting a gut" to increase production to win a contract to supply Volkswagen's diesel-powered version of the best-selling Golf.

This was a goal close to the heart of the Lucas management, which until the last year had been licensed by Bosch to manufacture diesel injection pumps.

VW offered an opportunity for one-time pupil to displace the teacher. Barry Chitcock, who joined CAV in 1974 after 12 years in the RAF, came up with a scheme for a new electrical "tele-control" panel which coped with six machines instead of two. It was so good that it was immediately extended to all 750 machines in the plant.

Yesterday Messervy presented Chitcock with a cheque for £2,300 (tax free) and tickets for a holiday for two in the United States (see Concorde).

The electrician took the top three prizes in the group's annual suggestion scheme, which started in 1922 with a top prize of £20.

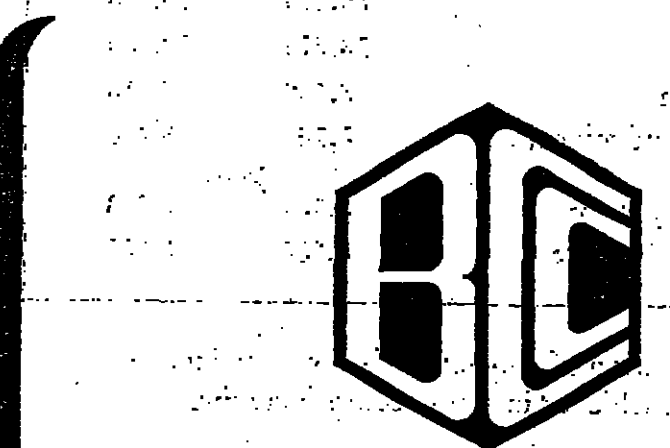
Overseas construction is big business for Britain—last year contractors picked up new work worth more than £1,700m—and could be bigger still, says the industry's leading body, the help forthcoming from the Government.

Competitors, the industry grumbles, have better tax incentives and more foreign currency exchange concessions. Now the Export Group for the Construction Industries, with the "enthusiastic cooperation" of the Foreign Office, is doing something to see that contractors receive better help once they are in the field.

This week about 20 commercial officers in diplomatic posts overseas are in London for a crash course on the construction industry and how they can help it to secure overseas contracts. They have flown in from areas which British contractors see as offering the best chance of picking up new work.

Among them are Our Men in Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Kuwait, Doha, Damascus, Jakarta, Bangkok, Bogota, Yuto, Tokyo, Warsaw and Lagos.

I have had a letter from what appears to be an American company, the Institute for International Research. The writer managed to get wrong both the spelling of my name and my position with the paper.



BCCI Holdings (Luxembourg) S.A.
39 Boulevard Royal Luxembourg

1977
December 31
Capital Funds exceed US\$105 million
Total Assets exceed US\$2.1 billion

The BCC Group now has 145 offices (including those of subsidiaries and affiliates) in 31 countries.

Principal subsidiaries of the Group:
Bank of Credit & Commerce International S.A., Luxembourg
Bank of Credit & Commerce International (Overseas) Ltd., Grand Cayman
Banque de Commerce et de Placements S.A., Geneva, Switzerland
BCCI Finance International Ltd., Hong Kong
Credit and Finance Corporation Ltd., Grand Cayman

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Howard Machinery manages to make up part of the leeway

By Bryan Appleyard

Howard Machinery, the Rotavator agricultural equipment company, made pre-tax profits of £1.5m in the year to October 31 after only breaking even at half-way.

However, the profits were well down on last year's £3.25m though sales managed a 7.4 per cent improvement from £69.3m to £74.4m.

Mr John Howard, the deputy chairman, said the second half rally was due largely to some pick-up in the autumn in the French and German markets, the latter helped by a new range of wine presses. At home Harvestore and J. Mann, the distribution subsidiary, also

showed some late improvement.

Agricultural machinery markets are generally flat owing to depressed food prices and the resulting low liquidity levels among farmers. Mr Howard is currently expecting this situation to persist in the United Kingdom, which takes 25 per cent of total sales, this year with some pick-up in Europe, particularly France where the General Election should yield greater stability and confidence.

The picture is similar in the United States where a flat economy and conservationist fears about soil erosion have been overhauling the market. But offsetting the unexciting trading outlook is the hope that Howard's current reorganization programme will begin to

pay off in the current year. The number of UK plants is being cut from four to three and the foundry operation is being cut out entirely. Overseas the newly acquired Lehman Manufacturing will be bringing in a full year's contribution. In balance-sheet terms the net outflow of funds during the past year has had little effect though the strength of the pound has resulted in a 10 per cent cut in the value of overseas assets.

Finally many Stock Market fears were proved groundless by the announcement of a maintained final dividend of 1.8p making a total of 3.38p gross. The shares added 2p to 34p yesterday to yield 9.9 per cent. They are selling at 14.2 times stated earnings.

Electronic Machine action on loss makers

By Tony May

Despite hopes of an improvement, Electronic Machine piled up further losses for the year to April 30, and for the following six months, so the market cut 5p from the shares to leave them at 14.1p. Turnover went up from £1.6m to £2.27m over 1976-77 but a profit of £2.80 before tax was turned into a loss of £267,000. This was struck after providing £27,000 for research and development and £71,000 for slow-moving stock. The following six months to October 31 saw turnover increase from £1.02m to £1.36m while losses were £123,000 against £162,000. The board says that action now taken should ensure that the results for the full year to April 30 next are not "materially worse" than those for the first half.

Over the past year the group has suffered a severe strain upon its liquidity, but has come through with the support of its bank. Commenting on the results, the board says that earlier indications of an improving performance by the metal pressing division were not sustained, indeed they worsened as activity in the consumer durables and motor car industry slackened. Furthermore, the board did not achieve the expected production of its new instrument range.

As the rallies become less and less effective, some managers are already talking about the index reaching the 20 level, below the bottoming out. The group's losses went easier through the session with "longs" losing a quarter to three-eighths and short edged stocks closing up to three-eighths off.

Hardest hit among the "blue chips" were Glaxo down 10p

Stock markets

Shell drivers jolt equities

The Shell tanker drivers' decision to join the go-slow, and substantial wage claims from gas and rail workers caused widespread losses in the equity market yesterday.

Leaders were not helped by a cheerless CBI survey and of the constituents of the 30 share index only one stock, GKN, could manage a small gain.

After having been 5.5 points down at one time, the FT index rallied throughout the afternoon and, after very quiet inter-office trading, closed at 467.0 showing a net fall of 3.0 for the session.

The institutions are still standing on the sidelines as many fund managers adopt a

Building nuclear power stations is a big part of Whessoe's business and the Government's decision to press ahead with two new nuclear stations with British AGR reactors was just the news Whessoe had been waiting for. North Sea work is still scarce but it seems that the group is raising profits this year to September from £3.4m to around £4m. At 92p Whessoe is valued in the market at only £8.3m.

"wait and see" stance. With the prospect of further rights issues next month, a long and short "tap" still in the gilt market, liquidity levels are not yet posing many problems. As the rallies become less and less effective, some managers are already talking about the index reaching the 20 level, below the bottoming out. The group's losses went easier through the session with "longs" losing a quarter to three-eighths and short edged stocks closing up to three-eighths off.

Hardest hit among the "blue chips" were Glaxo down 10p

to 578p. Becham, shedding 8p to 632p. Courtaulds 7p off at 220p and GEC at 253p. Boots at 207p and Metal Box at 298p all easing 4p. Bower at 175p, Dunlop at 84p and ICI at 342p marked time on the day while GKN, against the trend, added 2p to 269p.

Nine-month figures from Reed International added 7p to the shares at 135p while BATS, reporting final, after slipping to 270p at one point, closed 2p higher at 27p.

A return to profits after only breaking-even at the half-way stage helped Howard Machinery up 2p to 34p while, of the other group's reporting, Electronic Machine lost 3p to 18p, and Sterling Credit shed 2p to 45p.

Banks continued weak with Midland losing another 4p to 245p in front of today's exchange quotation. National Westminster closed 2p off at 265p while Lloyds at 265p and Barclays at 313p were unchanged.

News of an offer for Young Austen fuelled a 14p rise to 81p while bidder Trafalgar House lost 5p to 150p. Comet Radiocision lost 3p to 104p despite the promise of a double dividend—its shares were here—while takeover prospect

Henry Wigfall marked time at 269p.

Over on the stores penny, House of Fraser firmed a pence, against the trend, on speculation of top management changes. Over the past week the shares have risen from 134p. Sears, another item spot lately with buyers picking up stock ahead of the annual figures and the annual dividend, shed 1p to 62p.

Harrisons & Crossfield lost 13p to 350p as the bid for Harcos, down 9p to 82p, went unconditional. Outstanding takeover stock London Sumatra was trimmed back 9p to 111p.

Properties, unsettled by comment of the Fitted case, remained dull with Bernard Sunley losing 8p to 202p while Great Portland ended 6p down at 312p. The sale of its Berkeley Square interests for almost £17m left Town & City only half a penny down at 151p. Decca "A" lost 5p to 455p ahead of next month's interims while Lucas, a weak spot lately, added 2p on news of the Duccellier acquisition and Toyota deal. However the shares slipped back to finish unchanged at 251p.

Profit taking sliced two or three pence off several recent speculative favourites leaving Northwest Molt at 94p, Pauls & Whittes at 118p, Davenport Brewery at 90p, Arthur Bell went 8p down to 214p.

Storm and flood damage claims left insurances depressed with Royal Sp off at 390p and Sun Alliance, additionally

Electronics group Muirhead dropped 3p to 182p yesterday, following the placing of the rights issue. It is thought that around 180,000 shares passed through the market.

worried over Government sanctions, 10p down to 540p.

Equity turnover on January 30 was £64.96m (12,368 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BAT, BAT Ind, ICI, GEC, Rank Org, BP, Shell, Boots, European Ferries, Grand Metropolitan, Royal Insurance, Becham, Courtaulds, Marks & Spencer, Metal Box, Reed Int, Turner & Newell, Cammell, Howard Machinery, Wilkinson Match and Young Austen.

Charterhouse
Increased profit
in difficult year

The Group

The Group pre-tax profit for the year ended 30th September 1977 was £8.5 million compared with £7.4 million for the previous year. Most companies achieved record profits and there would have been a very considerable increase in Group profit overall, had it not been for losses in the activities of two industrial subsidiaries.

The Group has continued to rationalise and consolidate those activities most severely affected by the recession whilst it has invested in those companies whose products or services will benefit from an improving economy.

Dividend

The Directors have recommended a final dividend of 2.175p per fully paid ordinary share making a total distribution for the year of 3.355p. This is the same distribution as last year but on an increased share capital.

Future Prospects

Subject to any unforeseen circumstances, I believe that in 1978 we shall be reporting a significant increase in profit. This will result not only from improvements in trading conditions but from first time contributions from oil and new investments as well as the result of our actions to improve the activities which have faced severe problems during the last year or so.

from the Statement by the Chairman, G. N. Mobbs

| Results in Brief | 1977 | 1976 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Capital employed | 89,626 | 89,763 |
| Profit before interest | 13,676 | 12,193 |
| Profit before taxation | 8,506 | 7,413 |
| Profit after taxation and minorities | 5,161 | 3,488 |
| Earnings per ordinary share | 5.734 | 4.613 |
| Dividends per ordinary share | 3.355 | 3.355 |

The profit before taxation of £8.5 million showed an increase of 15%. Record results were achieved in many sectors including:

- Newage Engineers, particularly in the Electrical Division where a rapid recovery from the overseas cut-back in orders was achieved
- Spring Grove Industrial Services, with its eighth year of consistent profit growth in the workwear rental industry
- Edmundson Electrical, which achieved a most impressive recovery, despite the continued recession in the construction industry
- Glanvill Enthoven, which maintained progress notwithstanding increased operating costs
- Charterhouse Japhet, after transfer to inner reserve and taxation.

Profit from development capital activities matched that of the previous year even though there were reduced trading profits in North America.

Action taken to respond to the situations in some parts of the Charcon and Alenco groups could not avoid the massive impact of the problems encountered by these companies.

All sectors of the Group are now showing the benefit of strong management and improved planning and control procedures. Substantial expenditure has been charged against the year's profit in many Group companies in developing, manufacturing and promoting new products and services, the benefits of which should be reaped in the future.

CHARTERHOUSE

Copies of the Annual Report of the Charterhouse Group Limited are obtainable from: Group Communications Dept., The Charterhouse Group, 1 Paternoster Row, St. Pauls, London EC4M 7DE Telephone 01-248 3999



Mr Tom Hudson, chairman of ICI, who had cheerful news for the annual meeting yesterday in the shape of "further significant growth in turnover and profit" for the current year. His budget for new orders for the first three months was much higher in value than for the same period, and actual orders taken "comfortably exceeded" the much higher budget. The first quarter however fell below plan on turnover and profit because of a slow start in the first two months. But the position recovered strongly in December and output has since been racing well.

Trafalgar bid for Young, Austen

News of a takeover approach by Trafalgar House sent the shares of Young, Austen & Young up 14p to 31p. Trafalgar recently bought a further 2,500 shares at 67p in this Leicester-based heating and air conditioning contractor taking its stake to over 30 per cent. Trafalgar is required by the Takeover Code to make a full bid and has approached the board to discuss terms. At 81p a share, Young, Austen's equity is valued at about £3.3m. The Young, Austen board is discussing the approach with its advisers and Standard Life Assurance held 500,000 shares while Pearl Assurance owned 328,750 shares and the National Westminster Bank pension fund controlled a further 320,000.

British Land again in for PIF block buying

British Land has entered the market once again for a block of shares in Property Investment & Finance. The purchase of a further 300,000 shares from a group of institutional investors increases British Land's stake in the property investment and finance group from 11.5 per cent, which it picked up last week, to about 18.3 per cent.

The consideration will be satisfied by the issue of 780,000 British Land shares for which the buyer has applied for a listing. British Land dropped 1p yesterday to 35p so the deal effectively values each share in Property Investment & Finance at 92.3p.

British Land has scope to increase its stake should it wish, for before it acquired the first tranche of 500,000 shares, both the Co-operative Insurance Society and Standard Life Assurance held 500,000 shares while Pearl Assurance owned 328,750 shares and the National Westminster Bank pension fund controlled a further 320,000.

Yearling bonds up to 7 1/2 per cent

Commonwealth Development Finance has exercised its option on a further 500,000 ordinary in Belhaven Brewery, which was formerly CCH Investments. This brings to one million the

Diversification offsets steel recession for J & J Dyson

By Michael Clark

The continuing recession in the steel industry has brought in its wake difficult trading so far at J. & J. Dyson. However Mr Gerald Lomas, chairman, confidently expects pre-tax profits for the year to March 31, to reach about £2.7m, a record £2.7m.

Turnover of the group has risen by £3.03m to £16.74m, pushing pre-tax margins up from 6.9 per cent to 8.2 per cent. The

interim dividend has been lifted from 1.92p to 1.95p with the board forecasting a final payment of 1.67p, making the total for the year 5.45p gross.

Elsewhere, the diversification policy pursued by the group during the last few years has minimized the effect of the steel recession and any short-fall of profits has been more than compensated by a substantially increased contribution from these other interests. Mr Lomas says that the group will continue with this policy in the years ahead. The forward-looking policies of the group, he adds, will enable it, in spite of the present uncertain economic conditions, to face the future with confidence.

Back in September last year the chairman hinted that a possible rights issue could be on the way. In the annual report he pointed out that the group was trading very profitably but it had reached the stage where it must be considered as somewhat under-capitalized. Therefore the directors would seek to obtain additional working capital, most probably by way of a rights issue.

Thanks to an excellent final two months Dyson turned in pre-tax profits of £2.3m in the preceding full year to March 31, an increase of more than 75 per cent on the corresponding period.

Behind Sime Darby move

Pressures within Malaysia

Sime Darby Holdings, the international plantation and trading group, is to move its headquarters from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur. The move is expected to be finished by the end of this year. Mr James Scott, the group's chief executive, also said that the question of the company's domicile is still under consideration.

This last remark could offer a clue as to the reasons for Sime Darby's move, a move which is bound to be further controversial around an already controversial company. On the face of it, the move is logical. The bulk of Sime's MS825m (£193m) of assets is in Malaysia, and the Malaysian Division, contributed MS107m of total trading profits of MS142m (£33.3m) in 1976-77.

The legal structure of the company, moreover, has been strange, and in the view of analysts in need of readjustment for some time. Technically, Sime Darby is registered in London, but domiciled in Malaysia for tax purposes with

(until now) headquarters in Singapore. It is quoted in London, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Hongkong. Malaysia, moreover, is widely considered in South-East Asia, and indeed outside the region, as a country with considerable growth prospects. As a leading member of the Association of South East Asian Nations, with valuable raw materials and manufacturing opportunities, Malaysia is an obvious base for a company such as Sime Darby whose interests run the gamut of the region's economic activity. In addition, strong efforts have been made during the last two years to attract Arab investment from the Gulf to Malaysia, and Sime has developed its own Middle East operations.

But the trading rationale may not be the sole reason for Sime's move. While it is clear that Mr Scott has felt that the company has to stop swinging on Malaysia-Singapore axis, the pressures on him to choose Kuala Lumpur were great. The

most important source of pressure could have been the four directors representing Peninsular, the Malaysian government's investment and holding organization. These four joined the board in rather strained circumstances at the end of 1976. They were installed in a coup which was masterminded by the Ministry of Finance apparently as an expression of the government's nationalist New Economic Policy.

Further complicating the picture is the rivalry between Singapore and Malaysia. The latter, in which racial tension between the majority Malays and the minority Chinese is common, feels that Singapore, in which the racial balance is reversed, takes the cream in the form of trading profits from the primary commodity industries of Malaysia.

Michael Prest

Comet puts case for H. Wigfall

With the posting of the formal offer by Comet Radiocision for Henry Wigfall & Son, Wigfall's shares are still hovering above the bid price in the hope of a counter-bid.

The shares closed at 268p yesterday, compared with the offer price of about 242p, which values Wigfall's equity at £2.6m. The offer has so far been given a cool reception by Wigfall. Comet claims in the offer document that the price represents a premium over the net asset value at the last accounting date, although profits have fallen over the past two years to the stage where there was a loss for the half year to last October. Comet's board confirms the forecast of a substantial profit increase in the current year. And in the absence of dividend limitation, Comet will double its dividend to 7.1p gross.

BANK OF AMERICA
A headline yesterday may have created the impression that Bank of America had already sold its shares in Bank of Commerce International. As was explained in the story, Bank of America has only reached agreement with another BOC shareholder to sell its stake at some time over the next 21 years.

RICHARDSON, WESTGARTH
Group has bought whole of Gardiner, Barugh & Jones for £401,000.

GEORGE BASSETT
Group has bought Ramsay and Sons group from Mars for construction of £425,000 cash.

THOS W. WARD
Overall results for group are expected to show an improvement on past year.

BURMAH
Group is to help any stockholders of £50 nominal or less 64 per cent unsecured loan stock 1978-81, 74 per cent unsecured loan stock 1981-86 and 84 per cent unsecured loan stock 1986-96. Shareholders will buy together holdings and sell off in one or more large blocks.

Second suit filed over Airco-BOC

A second lawsuit has been filed in New York over the failure of BOC International's abortive approach to Airco for approval to make a full bid.

The latest suit, filed in a Federal District Court by Mr Milton Fisher, claims that Airco's rejection of BOC's bid approach has deprived Airco holders of the opportunity to sell their shares at \$43 a share, much more than its recent price on the New York stock exchange.

Airco turned down BOC's offer of a full bid at \$43 after agreeing that BOC should raise its stake from 34 to 49 per cent at that price.

Mr Fisher charged that Airco's directors had rebuffed BOC "to avoid the risk of losing their positions" if Airco were taken over. The suit names as defendants Airco and 10 of its 13 directors.

Business appointments

New group finance director for Cadbury Schweppes

Mr Michael Gifford has been named group finance director of Cadbury Schweppes from the end of March. Mr Gifford will be succeeded as chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes Australia by Mr John Urquhart, managing director of the Australian company's confectionery division.

Mr Angus Murray, chairman of Redman Heenan International, has been appointed chairman of Fairway Engineering Holdings, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Enterprise Board and the new holding company for three Fairway group companies recently purchased by the NEB.

Mr Edward Rayne is to succeed Mr Eric Crabtree as chairman of Debenhams fashion multiple division. Mr Crabtree remains chairman of Hardy Amies and a director of Debenhams. Mr Rayne also becomes chairman of Harvey Nichols, Lotus, Greta Sills, Debenhams (Manufacturing & Supplies) and J. & S. Bickley and remains chairman and managing director of H. & M. Rayne. Mr J. R. S. Bos has been appointed a director of Chesterfield Properties.

Mr Norman Smith has joined the board of Elliott Group of Peterborough. Mr Peter Brindley and Mr Tony Howell have been appointed secretary and group financial controller respectively, following the retirement of Mr John Wilmore.

Mr W. M. Peacock has been named deputy chairman of Nardio & Co.

Mr Colin Ross has been

appointed managing director of Crescent Unit Trust Managers. Mr R. W. Halsey has joined Debenhams Industries as chief executive of its electrical and mechanical services group. Mr P. A. Snel has joined the board of British Electrically National as a full-time projects director. Mr K. D. A. Prior has been made managing director of Cornelius Chemical in succession to Miss S. Gaitsky. Mr Ian Willis has been appointed managing director of Formica, succeeding Mr James Plummer, who remains on the board. Mr Richard Gardner joins the board of Anthony Gibbs, Sage Ltd. Sir Andrew Stark has been named chairman of The Macclesfield Co. Mr R. W. Batson has been elected a director of Baker Perkins. Mr W. O. Robledo has been appointed to the board of Henry Bath & Son. Mr Desmond Hawken and Mr Michael Dixon join the Vernon Advertising Group board. Mr John Werner becomes deputy chairman of Vernons and Mr Peter White becomes director. Mr Andrew Papworth and Mr Paul Bennett join Vernons' board. Mr Alan Woodburn joins Bell Cheney Mallison and becomes chairman. Mr Tony Dews and Mrs Doreen Johnson become directors of Vernons (Manchester). Mr Pat Tate has joined the board of Kingswood Carpets as financial director.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

International

Deere looks heading for a record year

Deere and Company of Moline, Ill., the world's largest producer of farm equipment, is off to a strong start in what promises to be a year of rugged competition in the industry. William Hewitt, chairman and president, said the company's earnings for 1978 even though it was a very competitive year. Deere earned a \$255.6m. He believes that its earnings will be offering special incentive programmes to dealers to move big inventory. Deere also will offer some incentives to its marketing costs, Dow Jones.

Wall Street

Gold gains up to \$3.40

New York, Jan 31.—New York stock prices closed mixed in light of a sharp drop in oil prices yesterday's sharp gains, as United States Steel cut its quarterly dividend and Kaiser posted a fourth-quarter loss.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was down 2.52 at 789.92, but some 685 issues advanced, with about 665 lower.

Volume totalled 19.87 million shares, compared with 17.40 million yesterday.

The New York stock market was already pulling back from its early gains when United States Steel announced a drop in fourth-quarter earnings to 11 cents a share from 38 cents a year earlier and cut its dividend to 40 cents a share from 55 cents.

Gold gains up to \$3.40

New York, Jan 31.—Gold futures closed up to \$3.40 higher in moderately active trading. The price of gold rose from \$177.60 to \$181.00, a gain of \$3.40. The price of silver rose from \$10.00 to \$10.34, a gain of \$0.34.

The price of oil fell from \$10.00 to \$9.60, a drop of \$0.40. The price of wheat rose from \$1.00 to \$1.05, a gain of \$0.05.

Crude loses four

Of the 10 principal members of the OPEC oil cartel, four have decided to cut production. The four are Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait and Libya. The cut in production is expected to raise the price of oil.

Bank Base Rates

| Bank | Rate |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Bank of America | 6 1/2% |
| Bank of Montreal | 6 1/2% |
| Bank of New York | 6 1/2% |
| Bank of Toronto | 6 1/2% |
| Bank of Victoria | 6 1/2% |
| Bank of Western Australia | 6 1/2% |
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| Bank of West Timor | 6 1/2% |
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| Bank of East West Timor | 6 1/2% |
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Commodities

Wheat: old crop slightly weaker; new crop very strong

Wheat: old crop slightly weaker; new crop very strong. The price of wheat rose from \$1.00 to \$1.05, a gain of \$0.05. The price of corn rose from \$0.50 to \$0.55, a gain of \$0.05. The price of soybeans rose from \$0.80 to \$0.85, a gain of \$0.05. The price of cotton rose from \$0.20 to \$0.25, a gain of \$0.05. The price of sugar rose from \$0.10 to \$0.15, a gain of \$0.05. The price of oil rose from \$10.00 to \$10.50, a gain of \$0.50. The price of gold rose from \$177.60 to \$181.00, a gain of \$3.40. The price of silver rose from \$10.00 to \$10.34, a gain of \$0.34. The price of oil fell from \$10.00 to \$9.60, a drop of \$0.40. The price of wheat rose from \$1.00 to \$1.05, a gain of \$0.05.

Forward Levels

President Carter's overnight press conference

President Carter's overnight press conference continued little to stimulate the dollar yesterday, though some relief was expressed over America's smaller-than-expected trade deficit for December. Despite the writer of wages pressures threatening the pay guidelines, and a gloomy survey from the FBI, the pound charted a steady climb to a new high of \$1.55, a net gain of a quarter-cent. The level in the currency basket remained unchanged at \$1.55. The Mark closed at 2.1090 (2.1155). Other Europeans ending with dollar gains included Swiss francs (1.7800), the guilders (2.2575), French francs (4.7360), and the Belgian franc (23.3600). The yen finished a touch higher at 241.60 (241.70). Gold gained \$0.75 to close in London at \$175.75.

Spot Position of Sterling

Market rates

Market rates: Sterling 1.55, Gold 175.75, Swiss franc 1.78, Guilder 2.2575, French franc 4.7360, Belgian franc 23.3600, Yen 241.60, Mark 2.1090, Dollar 1.00. The price of oil fell from \$10.00 to \$9.60, a drop of \$0.40. The price of wheat rose from \$1.00 to \$1.05, a gain of \$0.05.

Money Market

Bank of England

Bank of England: The Bank of England raised its base rate from 10% to 11% to combat inflation. The price of oil fell from \$10.00 to \$9.60, a drop of \$0.40. The price of wheat rose from \$1.00 to \$1.05, a gain of \$0.05.

Discount market

Credit conditions

Credit conditions: Credit conditions were tight in the discount market. The price of oil fell from \$10.00 to \$9.60, a drop of \$0.40. The price of wheat rose from \$1.00 to \$1.05, a gain of \$0.05.

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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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Insurance

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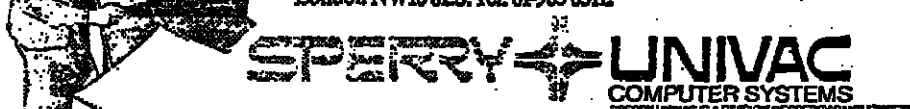
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That would be your title if you came to work for the M.D. of a major International Company located in the South London area.

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Write to Position Number AGT 6543, Austin Knight Ltd., London W1A 1DS.

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Detailed curriculum vitae, together with names of referees, should be addressed to The Registrar, International Court of Justice, Peace Palace, 2177 KJ The Hague, Netherlands, by 1 April. Selected candidates will be interviewed later.

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c.£4300 Colindale NW9

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A senior appointment in a young and happy atmosphere

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INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK

£4,250-£4,500

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The actual starting salary will depend on your qualifications and experience and will be supported by a substantial range of benefits which includes free lunches. The hours are from 9.30 to 5.00 and our pleasant offices are within walking distance of Moorgate, Liverpool Street and Chancery stations.

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A high standard of shorthand and typing is essential. We are offering a first class salary + LV's and many other large company benefits.

We also offer a very pleasant working environment in new modern offices in Barking, Essex (near Barking Station).

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J. Cannon

International Construction Company

P.A./Secretary—Rome

£5,500 after tax

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